



AMMAN-PARIS

THREE WEEKLY FLIGHTS

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
DEP. AMMAN	05:50	05:45	23:59
ARR. PARIS	11:55	11:55	SUN. 06:10

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France urges Israeli pledge on Golan

PARIS (R) — France told Israel on Wednesday that its Middle East neighbours were keen to pursue the peace process but an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon would advance negotiations. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe telephoned his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, to report on his trip to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon last week, a French spokeswoman said. Mr. Juppe said all the leaders he met were keen to continue the Middle East peace process and had emphasised the need for Israel to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. "A commitment by Israel in this direction could move the negotiations forward," foreign ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told reporters.

Likud will respect accord — Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's opposition right-wing Likud would respect the autonomy accord but block the creation of a Palestinian state if it returned to power, the party leader said Wednesday. Benjamin Netanyahu, quoted by Israeli radio, said a future Likud administration would have to "respect this international accord which was signed by a legitimately elected government." But his party would "work to diminish the risks," especially the creation of a Palestinian state, said Mr. Netanyahu. "Likud will make sure that does not happen." Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor as Likud chief, said Tuesday at a meeting with U.S. Jewish community leaders in New York that "everything will change" with his party's return to power. "We will find a way," he warned, when asked if the autonomy accord was not binding, as it had been approved both by the government and the Israeli parliament. Tourism Minister Uzi Barak slammed Mr. Shamir's comments as "anti-democratic," drawing Mr. Netanyahu to intervene and give Likud's stand.

Arab party threatens Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli Arab Party leader threatened Wednesday to withdraw his support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's minority coalition government unless he is given a ministerial post. Abdul Wahab Darawshe told reporters that his Arab Democratic Party and its two deputies would join the opposition unless Mr. Rabin agreed to meet him by Friday to discuss the issue. The party is not a member of the ruling coalition, which has 56 MPs in the 120-seat Knesset. But apart from the ultra-Orthodox Jewish party Shas, which has six seats, Mr. Rabin also counts on Israeli Arab and communist deputies to support the Middle East peace process. "Arab opinion in Israel wants to have its say in the decision-making process and is no longer satisfied with just giving passive support for the government from the outside," warned Mr. Darawshe.

Iran wants talks with UAE on row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it wanted direct talks with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a territorial dispute over three Gulf islands. "Obviously, we still welcome bilateral negotiations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi was quoted as saying by Iran's official news agency IRNA. "Neighbouring littoral states should make efforts to remove ambiguities and maintain security and collective interests in this part of the world," Mr. Mohammadi said. The UAE cancelled a minister's visit to Tehran in September, saying Iran's refusal to discuss sovereignty over the islands made any negotiations pointless. Iran says talks have no pre-conditions.

King-Mubarak summit crowns reconciliation

Two leaders say ties back to normal after Cairo talks
'Jordan-Israel accord depends on autonomy progress'

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held summit talks in Cairo Wednesday, ending three years of a rift caused by conflicting stands during the Gulf crisis.

It was the King's first official visit to Egypt since 1990.

King Hussein told a news conference after two hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak: "I am happy to be here to visit Egypt and return as we were so we can discuss the important issues in this delicate period."

Asked whether the visit marked the resumption of normal relations, the King said: "Yes, this is my feeling."

Mr. Mubarak intervened to say: "There is no problem as long as there are visits and contacts... I think normal relations are necessary. Our contacts have never been cut and coordination continued. As you remember, the Egyptian foreign minister visited Jordan several times and there is no problem."

In October last year, King Hussein visited Cairo and met Mr. Mubarak briefly after an earthquake hit the Egyptian capital, killing more than 550 people.

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, said King Hussein and President Mubarak held a closed door meeting Wednesday followed by another attended by officials from the two sides.

They exchanged views on regional and international issues and discussed the Middle East peace process.

They agreed on continued coordination of stands and unification of efforts to give momentum to the peace process, it said. They also agreed that the peace process should move ahead to achieve progress along all the tracks, it said.

Addressing a press conference before he returned home, King Hussein said he and Mr. Mubarak discussed all the important issues at this crucial and promising stage.

"We have discussed bilateral relations as well as the Middle East question, and we hope that a just and comprehensive peace would be achieved as a result of the current peace process," King Hussein said at the joint press conference with the Egyptian president.

King Hussein said he would prefer to wait for further progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track of the Middle East peace talks before implementing a peace agenda signed by Jordan and Israel.

"We have made a start and signed an agenda, implementa-

tion of which has been put off until major progress is made on the Palestinian-Israeli track," King Hussein said.

Asked whether he wished to assure Syria that Jordan would not sign a unilateral peace deal with Israel without involving Damascus, the King said: "We have always sought a just and global peace allowing everybody living in the region to enjoy a different atmosphere."

In reply to a question about the impact on the Jordanian economy of peace settlement, the King said that there were different dimensions of the issue — like the Jordanian-Palestinian dimension and the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli dimensions. "We do not fear peace nor do we fear negative effects which people believe would emerge as a reality as a result of the peace," he said.

"We possess vast potentials and we want to deal with the basics until people become assured of peace and a new life and the future."

"We seek peace that would deal with peoples needs, not signing of papers only."

"I do not believe there will be danger since we hope that the coming peace would serve the whole region."

The King did not rule out the possibility that the Jordanian-Israeli track would prove "the most complicated" in the

Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Mubarak said bilateral Syrian-Israeli negotiations "could start soon."

"Obstacles may remain, but in principle our brothers in Syria want to negotiate seriously to resolve these problems."

Mr. Mubarak said a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher set for early next month "could achieve a breakthrough in the peace process."

The King was accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and political advisor Marwan Al Qassem.

Mr. Mubarak told the press conference he believed Syria understood peace with Israel would have to mean normalisation of relations, including trade.

Mr. Mubarak, who has been trying to help the United States to break a year-long deadlock in talks between Syria and Israel, was asked whether he thought Syria was ready for the "full peace" including embassies and open borders that Israel seeks.

"I understand the significance of peace is normalisation of relations, open borders, everything, and I think Syria understands the same concept," Mr. Mubarak replied.



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon his arrival in Cairo Wednesday (AFP photo)

Israel, PLO discuss transfer of authority

EL ARISH, Egypt (Agencies)

— Israeli and Palestinian negotiators ended their first day of talks here Wednesday on arrangements for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The talks, being held for the first time in El Arish, a Mediterranean town in the north of the Sinai Peninsula, are due to resume Thursday, officials said.

The Israeli delegation left El Arish to spend the night in Israel after the talks, which are part of the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy under the terms of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Parallel talks focusing mainly on security issues were being held Wednesday in Cairo.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat urged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday to help unblock the talks with Israel, the Cairo foreign ministry said.

Mr. Arafat sent a message calling on the Egyptian leader to "work to overcome the obstacles" in the talks.

The PLO representative in Cairo, Saeed Kamal, delivered the message to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Kamal told reporters the message also dealt with recent "developments concerning the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Arab World and internationally."

The withdrawal is the first stage in a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule, during which Israel and the Palestinians will negotiate a permanent peace settlement.

A PLO source reported a minor breakthrough at Tuesday's talks in Cairo: The Israelis agreed to include the vexed question of 10,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails in the written accord on the withdrawal.

The PLO had warned that it would not sign the accord unless Israel gave a written commitment to free the men.

But the source said the two sides still differed on what the written agreement should say. Israel had not accepted a PLO demand for a promise that all prisoners would be released by mid-April.

The source said there had been no progress on the two other major points of difference — the exact size of the area of Jericho and control of the international crossing points between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan.

Negotiators expect Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to meet before 13, probably in Cairo, to resolve problems that defeat the lower officials.

Diplomats expect the toughest problem to be the future of one or two small, isolated Jewish settlements in the overcrowded, poverty-stricken Gaza Strip.

Arafat: Gaza, Jericho will not be 'Bantustans'

ATHENS (Agencies) — The Gaza Strip and Jericho must not become Palestinian "Bantustans" once the historic accord on limited Palestinian autonomy is applied in those territories, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat warned Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat, in Greece for a 24-hour visit that is part of his tour of European countries to discuss the implementation of the accord, said after meeting Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu that the autonomy deal was running into obstacles.

"So far there has been no detailed proposal for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho," he said, adding that the accord must be "fully and faithfully applied" without leading to the two territories becoming dumping grounds for Palestinians.

He added that upon his arrival here Wednesday he had spoken by phone with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was also in Greece, but refused to specify what the two had discussed.

Mr. Peres, who had been in Greece for a 36-hour official visit, later headed to Amsterdam.

He said that upon his arrival here Wednesday he had spoken by phone with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was also in Greece, but refused to specify what the two had discussed.

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Israel-PLO economic talks 'positive'

PARIS (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian officials held a second day of talks here Wednesday on handing over economic and financial powers to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied territories.

The talks were "constructive," the two sides said, but gave few details.

Transfer of powers, agreement on details of which is due by a deadline of Dec. 13, will first involve Jericho and the Gaza Strip, under the Sept. 13 Washington agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

Experts from the two sides are negotiating in three working groups until Thursday, one devoted to trade and labour, the second to fiscal matters and the third to finance and banking.

The Israeli delegation is composed of officials from the finance and foreign ministries and the central bank, while the PLO is represented by eight experts from the occupied territories, with no officials from PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO economy chief Ahmad Korieh will arrive here Thursday to attend the closing session of the talks. The two officials chaired a first one-day session of the talks, held here last week.

New rounds of talks are programmed for three days a week up until Dec. 13.

Officials from both sides said they might not be able to meet the Dec. 13 deadline. "A good agreement a little later is better than a bad agreement," said an Israeli diplomat.

Officials said such questions as taxation and the rights of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel would be easier to settle than issues of currency, a central bank and trade — free movement of goods and trade relations with Jordan.

They said dealing with the problem of unemployment in the territories, notably in Gaza, was essential in the success of the transitional stage.

The Palestinian labour force in Gaza is estimated at between 125,000 and 200,000, of which about 41,000 were employed in Israel in 1991.

The PLO wants authorisation for 100,000 Palestinians to work in Israel, compared with the 50,000 allowed since the occupied territories were sealed off last March.

No final agreement was expected in the current round, Israeli spokesman Arik Gor-

din said. "At least one more meeting, its venue yet to be determined, would be held before Dec. 13, the target date for the Israeli withdrawal."

Mr. Gordin said an agreement on the economic issues would likely be reached "around that time."

Arafat insists on his job

In Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat denied on Wednesday he had withdrawn as regular chairman of the economic council he set up to channel foreign development aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Council member Yousef Al Sayegh said Tuesday Mr. Arafat would only chair an advisory council, after a restructuring which apparently met demands from donors and economic experts.

Schoolboys convicted of murder, sentenced to indefinite detention

PRESTON, England (Agencies) — A jury convicted two schoolboys Wednesday of murdering two-year-old James Bulger after luring him from his mother at a shopping mall.

Judge Michael Morland sentenced both boys to indefinite detention in a secure facility.

They were officially condemned to an open-ended sentence of "detention at Her Majesty's pleasure" for what the judge termed their "act of unparalleled evil and brutality."

Judge Morland assured them they would be securely detained "for very, very many years."

With the sentence, the judge lifted an embargo on the boys' names. Child A, as he has been known, is Robert Thomson, Child B, Ian Venables.

As the judge passed sentence at Preston Crown Court, Thomson — wearing a white open-necked shirt — clutched at his chest with his left hand, taking big gulps of air.

Venables sat crying quietly, occasionally glancing across at the jury.

The two social workers who had accompanied them throughout the case then led the two quickly from the dock, down the central stairs and out of the courtroom, ready to be taken back to the secure units where they have been held.

Denise Bulger, 25-year-old mother of the victim, in late pregnancy and in court for the first time, went pale as the verdict was announced.

As the boys left the dock, Denise's brother, Ray Matthews, seethed at them: "How do you feel now, you little bastards?"

Venables' solicitor, Lawrence Lee, said afterwards the boy wept as he said: "Would you please tell them I am sorry."

Mr. Lee said that as they waited for the jury's verdict, Venables turned to his sobbing mother, Susan, and asked her to stop crying.

He was "obviously a boy with problems," said the lawyer. "We accept that he has got to be punished subject to any appeal that there might be. We are not so hypocritical that we think our clients are all saints."

Both boys had pleaded innocent, despite one boy's concession and the other's admission that he witnessed James' death.

The jury said could not reach a verdict on a charge that the two boys also attempted to abduct a second child, and the charge was dropped.

James suffered a violent and

prolonged attack at the end of a two-kilometre walk across Liverpool on Feb. 12. He died of 30 blows from bricks, an iron bar, feet and fists; paint was poured on his face; his half-stripped body was left on a railroad track and severed by a passing train.

Security cameras recorded the toddler taking the hand of an older boy and being led away from the shopping mall and his mother.

Those haunting last images of James and the age of his killers, then 10, gave the case international attention.

Sixty-one people remembered seeing James that day. Many witnesses said they felt uneasy but the few who intervened were fobbed off with lies: The two said they were taking the boy home or to a police station.

The defendants, who had skipped school on the day of the attack, did not testify. Before encountering James, the boys stole snacks, drinks and model paint until they got what the prosecution alleges they were after that day — a small child they intended to badly hurt, at the least.

Judge Morland said he believed that a violent video, rented by Venables' father, may have contributed to the crime.

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Algerian regime invites fundamentalists to talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's military-backed rulers have excluded Islamic fundamentalists trying to overthrow the government from talks aimed at setting up a transition leading to elections.

The High State Council issued an invitation for a dialogue to fundamentalists "who respect the law" — thus eliminating jailed Islamic leaders who would be key to ending a 22-month-old revolt by their followers.

In a long statement made public to news organisations, the council took the holder steps of suggesting it would shorten a curfew, ease police controls and free some fundamentalists from house arrest.

Though limited, the moves marked an overtone towards the country's large fundamentalist population after nearly two years of a crackdown that have failed to contain Islamic sentiment.

In that time, the fundamentalists have had an election victory stolen, seen their party banned and their leaders jailed. Radicals have taken up arms. More than 2,000 people have been killed.

The invitation and relaxation of some security measures also seemed an effort to soothe

several other political parties that have bolted from the so-called "national dialogue."

The talks, run by a five-man national dialogue commission, are aimed at setting up a two-to-three-year transitional leadership that would replace the committee in January.

Tuesday's statement noted that if "qualified" political figures could be found to represent fundamentalism, the transition talks should serve as the framework to make their views heard.

Their participation "implies... a scrupulous and total respect" for the constitution and the law, the statement said.

There is no obvious candidate for such a role. The main fundamentalist leaders are jailed, in exile or underground. Many are associated with armed Islamic groups.

The council has pledged to resign by the end of December, the legal expiration of former President Chadli Benjedid's term. He was toppled in the January 1992 coup that brought the panel to power.

But the council has failed to create an institution to replace it. A national conference setting out the transition is to be held before year's end. Disagreement has held it up.

The important front for socialist forces, with strength in the minority Berber ethnic group, suspended its participation with the dialogue commission last week.

Saying no solution ignoring the fundamentalists can work, the party has demanded the release of people jailed for political opinions, the suspension of special anti-terrorism courts and death sentences, and the lifting of the state of emergency.

Ahmad Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, declared on state television Tuesday that the government should lighten the political atmosphere to make the dialogue work.

Mr. Ben Bella said that unspecified members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party should be freed from prison and associated with the talks, and some others freed as a sign of goodwill.

Six Algerians killed

A local official was killed in a cafe in eastern Algeria Tuesday following the deaths of five civilians over the weekend, the official news agency APS said.

APS, quoting security sources, said the official was a vice president of the local government of Ben-Zid town about 315 kilometres east of Algiers.

'Thatcher misled parliament' on Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's prime minister made a misleading statement to parliament about arms sales to Iraq when she denied in 1989 that there had been a change in government policy, an official inquiry was told Tuesday.

Eric Beston, a civil servant in the Department of Trade and Industry, said the statement by Margaret Thatcher was one of a number of "misinterpretations, inaccuracies, misleading statements" made by ministers to parliament.

But he told the inquiry that Mrs. Thatcher's statement had been drafted by civil servants. Mrs. Thatcher's successor as prime minister, John Major, set up the "Iraqgate" inquiry to discover if London knowingly broke its own rules and sold arms to Baghdad before the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

In April 1989, Mrs. Thatcher said in a written answer to a question by an opposition Labour member of parliament that there had been no change in strict government guidelines covering arms sales to Iraq.

But Mr. Beston, former head of the department's export controls sector, said the guidelines had been secretly relaxed after the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988. Controls on arms sales to Iran were maintained.

Replying to Labour member Harry Cohen, Mrs. Thatcher said there had been no change in the British government's policy on arms exports to Iraq and that these were still governed by rules laid down in 1985.

Mr. Beston said Mrs. Thatcher's answer left a "misleading impression" because in fact the rules had been secretly modified in 1988.

The investigation has not yet determined whether Mrs. Thatcher knew about the changes when she gave the answer.

However, on Monday Mr. Beston said Mrs. Thatcher had been given confidential reports informing her about Iraq's attempts to obtain material from Britain for military purposes.

In October, a senior Ministry of Defence official said Mrs. Thatcher had explicitly approved a decision not to revoke export licences granted to the Matrix-Churchill machine tool firm for Iraq in spite of intelligence reports about how Baghdad was using the machinery.

The scandal erupted in November 1992 following the acquittal of three Matrix-Churchill directors prosecuted for breaching the arms embargo on Iraq. The acquittal followed revelations at the trial that the government had covertly encouraged the illegal sales.

Their trial raised the question whether the government had convinced in arms sales and had been prepared to allow innocent men to be jailed rather than have its duplicity exposed.

The inquiry has not established how far up the chain of command to the prime minister the decision to alter the guidelines was known.

A former civil servant told the inquiry in July that William Waldegrave, then a minister in the Foreign Office, lied to parliament in 1989 to conceal a relaxation of guidelines on arms sales to Iraq.

Mr. Waldegrave is now minister of science and public services. Mrs. Thatcher, who resigned as prime minister in 1990, is due to give evidence to the inquiry in the next two months.

High-level U.S. defence team to visit Middle East

WASHINGTON (USIS) — The Clinton administration will send the highest level Defence Department mission yet to the Middle East Nov. 26 to reaffirm long-standing U.S. security commitments to the region.

Deputy Under-Secretary of Defence Frank Wisner will make a 13-day trip to countries in the Middle East and the Gulf in hopes of ushering in a "new era of cooperation" according to a senior Pentagon official who will be traveling with him.

The official, who briefed reporters on background Nov. 23 at the Pentagon, said the region's countries need "to hear directly from the new administration" about the importance the United States attaches to them. Mr. Wisner, a former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt and the Philippines, will travel to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Military and diplomatic officials in the region will be briefed by the visiting U.S. officials on the planned restructuring of U.S. defence forces as first announced by Defence Secretary Les Aspin on Sept. 14.

U.S. defence counterparts will discuss how to cope with potential threats with fewer resources and increasing budgetary constraints.

They will also discuss where the United States and the countries of the region stand in a post-cold war world that is economically challenged. Defining strategic requirements as well as current and future security threats will be a key component of the discussions, according to the briefers.

Mr. Wisner will be accompanied by representatives from the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and the U.S. Central Command.

The official said this trip will not produce new treaties, mutual defence pacts, or announcement about levels of military assistance. The administration hopes, however, to

set the stage for "a new era of cooperation with a region that we have long determined is vital to the U.S. national interest."

U.S. officials will be analysing how to translate a reduced U.S. force structure and budget toward a continued, meaningful commitment to the region. The official told Pentagon reporters that the United States and the countries in the region have to address future defence requirements together.

U.S. officials will be looking at ways to strengthen states individually, while promoting regional cooperation and examining ways to share the defence burden. Asked about Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defence efforts, the briefers expressed hope that the GCC members "would look at a compatible collective (for defence)" rather than focusing exclusively on self-sufficiency.

The official also said states will be urged to "establish priorities in ways that make sense, not only for their own defence, but in terms of mutual cooperation in the region."

This can be achieved, the briefers said, through military training, joint exercises, interoperability of equipment and doctrines, and possibly through the "delicate matter" of pre-positioning troops or materiel.

The official said the Wisner discussions will examine "what combination of (military) events, activities, (and) presence can achieve the (necessary) deterrent effect" aimed at hostile elements in the region.

If the Wisner consultations are successful, the official predicted, "a new era of cooperation" will emerge.

In response to questions from reporters, the official said the "threat of terrorism" will likely be considered in the context of security discussions, and the issue of environmental clean-up may also be addressed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top Shiite cleric hospitalised in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A senior Shiite Muslim cleric, known for his opposition to the rule of the clergy in Iran, has been hospitalised in Tehran for kidney stones. Grand Ayatollah Hassan Tabataba'i Ghomi, 85, was moved to the capital Saturday from a hospital in the northeastern city of Mashhad, where he had been under house arrest, one of his aides said. The Ayatollah told AFP from his hospital bed that his condition was satisfactory. Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, ostracised Ayatollah Ghomi for his opposition to political power for the clergy as well as to the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

Lebanese coins sell like hot cakes

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon issued its first commemorative set of gold, silver and bronze coins Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of independence, and a central bank official said they were selling faster than expected. The 22-carat gold coins, manufactured by Britain's royal mint, weigh 34.04 grammes and are priced at \$580. The sterling silver coins weigh 33.59 grammes and sell at \$50. The full set of gold, silver and bronze costs \$680 but the coins are also being sold individually. Nasser Saidi, deputy governor of the Bank of Lebanon, said the issue of gold coins would be limited. "At the moment the final issue size is not determined because of demand from outside. We do not know the size of demand from Lebanon abroad," he said. "Local demand is already outstripping what I estimated, which is 25,000 coins — 5,000 gold, 10,000 and 10,000 bronze... we've sold so many already that we've run out."

Islamists say Egypt forging student elections

CAIRO (R) — Muslim activist students accused Egypt's government-run universities Tuesday of rigging student union elections this week to stop them winning positions. Representatives from six main universities called in a news conference for new "free and honest" elections. Official results of the elections have not been published and the opposition newspaper Al Wafd said results were expected in a number of colleges where the turnout was the required minimum of 30 per cent. The Islamists said university administrations had removed the names of 6,000 fundamentalist students from electoral lists this week without giving any reason. Some 1,245 students had been banned from living in the university's student housing in the past month because of their Islamist ideology and 31 had been arrested, they added.

Israel to extradite murder suspect to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Tuesday it had ordered the extradition of an Israeli-American woman to stand trial for a 1980 California letter-bomb killing. Justice Minister David Libai signed an order to send Rochelle Manning, 53, to the United States to stand trial for the death of a California computer company secretary Patricia Wilkerson, a ministry spokeswoman said. It was unclear when she would be extradited. Mrs. Manning's husband Robert Manning, 41, was extradited in July to the United States where he was found guilty, the ministry said. It said the United States promised that should Rochelle Manning be convicted, she would not receive the death penalty. The U.S. extradition request accused the Mannings of mailing an explosive device to the Prowest Computer Corporation in Manhattan beach, California, during a business dispute in 1980. The device, which was not addressed to Ms. Wilkerson, exploded when the secretary plugged it into a socket.

Suicides' families may be entitled to damages

TEL AVIV (AP) — Suicide may count as a work-related accident, according to an Israeli supreme court ruling, the Israeli media reported. The supreme court said that if the suicide was shown to be work related and if the victim was known to be "out of control" prior to the suicide, his family could claim compensation from Israel's social security system, the Haaretz daily reported. The court ruling concerned the 1984 suicide of Yaakov Lusky, a truck driver for a dairy who was convinced his dispatcher was seeking revenge after Lusky charged him with corruption. The dispatcher kept Lusky on the road for 11 hours one day, the Haaretz daily quoted the court as saying. On another, he Lusky became despondent when he found out another driver had taken his shift. Soon after, Lusky hung himself and notes referring to his ongoing quarrel with the dispatcher were found in his pocket.

Moroccan's in Israeli-Palestinian deal

PARIS (R) — Morocco's largest private enterprise, the ONA group, said Tuesday it was negotiating with Palestinian partners for the creation of a consortium to include Israel's giant Koor group. "We have been asked to be part of the first Moroccan-Palestinian consortium to be associated with the Israeli Koor Group and the Banesto Bank of Spain," ONA President Fouad Filali told a news conference in Paris. "We are expecting a Palestinian response very soon and expect it to be a positive one," said Mr. Filali, who declined to identify the Palestinians involved. ONA, involved in food products and finance, is partly owned by the Moroccan royal family but foreign shareholders include major French banks and the Soros fund of U.S. financier George Soros. Mr. Filali did not specify what kind of activities the proposed new consortium would be involved in.

Cyprus protests Israeli exclusion

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus Tuesday protested to Israel its exclusion from an East Mediterranean tourism pact, a pact which could slow down a rapprochement between Cyprus and the Jewish state. Government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides did not say how the protest was conveyed or what it contained. Turkey, Israel and Egypt last week agreed in London to form the East Mediterranean tourism alliance to promote tourism in the three countries. Cyprus was excluded after objections voiced by Turkey, whose stand was backed by Israel.

Kuwaitis tortured ALF members

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten Palestinians and six Iraqis who had been living in Kuwait before the 1990 Iraqi invasion were tortured by the Kuwait government to force confessions that resulted in death sentences, human rights investigators said Tuesday.

The 16 men were arrested after the war in a frenzy of arrests in Kuwait to find scapegoats, said Ora Schuh, one of five lawyers the National Lawyers Guild sent to Kuwait last week.

The delegation asked the Kuwait government not to execute the men whose sentences have been appealed to a higher court.

They were tortured with electric shocks to the genitals, blindfolded and hanged by the arms from revolving ceiling fans, hunched with cigarettes and beaten, said Schuh, a Chicago lawyer.

One was tortured by shooting him twice in a foot, she

said. Asked to comment, the Kuwaiti embassy's press office did not return a call from the Associated Press.

The Palestinians were convicted because they were members of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), a Palestinian affiliate of the Iraqi government, not because they were active in the war, Ms. Schuh said, adding that it was only after the war that being a member of the Palestinian front became a crime.

The Palestinians and the Iraqis were sentenced last June 12 in a security court.

Although they are charged with helping Iraqi forces, no one testified about the 16 seen killing anyone or fighting, Ms. Schuh said.

The trial amounted to sporadic sessions before security court judges, and sometimes a court appointed defence attorney did not even show up, she

said. The chief prosecution witness was the head of the security police stations, and he was not even in the country at the time of the war, Ms. Schuh said.

The defendants were not allowed to call witnesses or to testify, she said.

Kuwait had brought 400,000 Palestinians to Kuwait before the war to work as teachers, engineers and technicians, Ms. Schuh said.

Most of those have been expelled since the war, but the 30,000 who remain are prohibited from leaving and cannot become legal residents, she said.

Other human rights investigators have said that the Iraqi government has "executed dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people since the end of the war."

The Iraqis still hold 627 Kuwaiti prisoners, the lawyers said.

Settler vigilantism continues

BEIT FAJAR, occupied West Bank (AP) — Israel has announced plans for a crackdown against Jewish settlers to stem a wave of vigilante attacks against Arabs in the occupied territories.

Settlers "are entitled to demonstrate and protest but under no circumstances to riot and break the law, or shoot, because there are laws and the government must convey the message that they will be enforced," Justice Minister David Libai said.

Among measures being considered are putting secret Shin Bet agents on the trail of those suspected of inciting riots and arresting more activists, Israeli newspaper Haaretz said.

Although the Shin Bet is known for the settlers to work and on many occasions that the settlers from the West Bank had told him that the Shin Bet had tried to recruit them but they had refused.

In any case, the hit and run tactics of some vigilantes makes it difficult to track them down and prosecute, police spokeswoman Tami Paul-Cohen said in an interview. An example of this was witnessed by this Palestinian reporter for

the Associated Press while driving home Monday night from the West Bank city of Hebron.

My tan Renault was tailed by a white minivan bearing Israeli license plates. At Beit Fajar in the occupied West Bank, about 16 kilometres south of my Jerusalem home, the van passed me and forced my car onto the road shoulder.

A tall man got out and punched a fist through the driver's window, his metal ring screaming against the glass as it shattered. He also punched my cheek, leaving a reddish bruise, while shouting in Hebrew, "I am a policeman. And you have no right to pass me."

He wore plainclothes, showed no badge, and his behaviour did not anything like those Israeli officers who have stopped me in the past.

Next to him, another Israeli drew a pistol and aimed it at my two brothers who had jumped out of the car when the window smashed, standing frozen at the roadside.

I got out of the car and the tall man tried to lunge at me but was held back by the guy with the gun. Then they left without another word.

It all lasted a matter of seconds, yet the terror and humiliation lingered. Later Israeli police said I could not get compensation for the window because it was broken by Israelis, not Arabs.

Many Palestinians have reported similar actions by settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past several weeks, including setting up checkpoints outside villages and smashing car windows of those who defy them. Soldiers often stand by without intervening.

The authorities insist such actions are illegal but that the law is often difficult to enforce because rarely are complaints lodged or perpetrators identified.

National police said only about 20 settlers have been brought to court.

Mrs. Paul-Cohen said one was jailed for several days and the rest were fined or freed on bail.

She said that parliament's legal committee had instructed police to tighten measures against settler vigilantes, including a referral of tough cases to a special crimes unit of national police.

PLO bureaucrats get ready to move into self-rule zones

By Salah Nasrawi
The Associated Press

TUNIS — Hundreds of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bureaucrats have been told to get ready to move into the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13 to set up an autonomous Palestinian administration, officials said.

It will be the largest contingent from the PLO headquarters here to return home since Sept. 13 agreement with Israel on a transition to limited self-rule in the occupied territories.

They will join thousands of PLO fighters from five Arab countries who will congregate in Jordan and Egypt before crossing the border to assume positions as security forces in the autonomous areas.

The PLO and Israel were reported to have reached broad agreement at secret negotiations in Cairo on beginning implementation of the autonomy deal as of Dec. 13.

The officials, who spoke in exchange for anonymity, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered nearly 500 former fighters who had moved to office jobs at PLO headquarters to pack up and be prepared for a transfer early next month.

Although their responsibilities have not been specified, the sources said most are from the PLO mainstream Fatah faction, and will form the backbone of Mr. Arafat's administration.

Senior PLO military officials have been dispatched to Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Yemen, to oversee the deployment of the security forces.

Commanding them will be Major General Nasr Youssef, a Fatah Central Committee member.

His two main deputies, appointed back in September, will be Maj. Gen. Abdul Razzak Al Mujadeh in Gaza and Maj. Gen. Abu Khalid Al Amla in Jericho.

The Tunisian newspaper Al Rai Al Am reported Tuesday that Mr. Arafat had named Amin Al Hindi as head of a Palestinian intelligence agency, but did not say whether it would be based in the territories.

Mr. Hindi is believed to have been one of the guerrillas who escaped after an attack that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Under Mr. Arafat's instructions the PLO will maintain the political department, its foreign ministry, in Tunis during the five-year interim period as stipulated in the agreement.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

TIME	PROGRAM
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Family Matters
21:00	Reasonable Doubts
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Midnight Run"

TIME	PRAYER TIMES
04:47	Fajr
06:08	Dhuhr (Summer) Dhuhr
11:52	Dhuhr
14:13	Asr
16:37	Maghreb
17:58	Isha

NUMBER	TELEPHONE
630341	Rescue
630342	Civil Defence Emergency
630343	Fire Brigade
630344	Police
630345	Highway Police
630346	Traffic Police
630347	Public Security Department
630348	Hotel Complaints
630349	Price Complaints
630350	Water and Sewerage
630351	Complaints
630352	Complaints
630353	Telephone Information
630354	Overseas Calls
630355	Central Assurance, T. lephon.
630356	Abbas Telephone Repairs
630357	Jordan Livestock
630358	Jordan Livestock
630359	Jordan Livestock
630360	Jordan Livestock
630361	Jordan Livestock
630362	Jordan Livestock
630363	Jordan Livestock
630364	Jordan Livestock
630365	Jordan Livestock
630366	Jordan Livestock
630367	Jordan Livestock
630368	Jordan Livestock
630369	Jordan Livestock
630370	Jordan Livestock

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630370	Jordan Livestock

Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman. Telephone	
Repairs	625491
Foreign Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan. Television	753111
Radio	774111
Jordan Electricity	630491
Jordan Electricity Authority	815415
Electric Power	
Emergency	636381
Highway Information	68-53200
Queen Abla Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

2 Aqaba-bound ships diverted

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The international naval force patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the U.N. sanctions against Iraq diverted two ships away from Aqaba this month in what a shipping official described as a surprising and shocking incident.

"We were and still are hopeful that Jordan's complaints that it is suffering serious losses from the over-zealous enforcement of the sanctions will be heard and addressed," said Sufian Muhaisen, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association.

Mr. Muhaisen said the latest ship to be boarded and inspected by an American frigate, the USS Kilauea, was the international cargo ship Kilauea, which was carrying 350 containers of general cargo from Europe bound for the Jordanian market.

Inspectors from the frigate, which was boarded on Nov. 15 at the Tiran Straits, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, found it "dangerous" for them to inspect the cargo since containers were stacked three-high on deck and ruled that they could not allow the ship to proceed, Mr. Muhaisen said.

Subsequently, the vessel turned back and docked at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, where the containers were "shifted" to suit the demands of the inspectors. It returned to the Tiran on Nov. 19 and was allowed to proceed to Aqaba after inspection, Mr. Muhaisen said.

"What was surprising and

shocking of the incident was the fact that we are used to having ships stacking containers three, four and even five high on dock and allowed to proceed to Aqaba," said Mr. Muhaisen, noting that shipping agents were familiar with the guidelines set up by the inspectors.

In the earlier interception this month, a ship carrying South American cargo for Jordan was denied permission to proceed to Aqaba by the inspectors who cited "cargo inaccessibility" for inspection, Mr. Muhaisen said.

That vessel was also allowed to proceed to Aqaba and it rearranged its cargo for inspection.

Such interceptions and delays had declined in the past months, but "it seems that whenever American frigates shift duties, the newcomers adopt their own guidelines for inspections, and this is causing problems," Mr. Muhaisen said. (Perhaps that also explains why Eilat-bound ships are also intercepted, raising hues and cries among Israelis, who, for all practical purposes, are expected to be among the last to bust the sanctions against Iraq.)

Since the U.N. Security Council imposed the trade embargo against Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the international enforcers have boarded more than 7,000 ships and diverted more than 500 ships.

In many cases, the cargo was bound for the Jordanian market, but that did not dissuade the inspectors from imposing their own conditions before allowing the vessels to

proceed or refusing permission to enter the Gulf of Aqaba altogether.

According to Mr. Muhaisen, the diversion of Kilauea incurred an additional cost of up to \$100,000.

Even without the extra costs caused by diversions, freight charges are higher for Aqaba since shipowners and charterers have to take into consideration the restrictions on cargo space availability imposed by the inspection guidelines.

In most cases, costs incurred by diversions — including trans-shipment charges — are shifted to the importer, making the consignment more expensive than originally envisaged. In turn the importer charges wholesalers with an extra mark-up and the consumer pays the cost down the line. In a large extent, importers say, this explains the relatively higher prices in the market for some of the products at times.

Mr. Muhaisen said the Shipping Agents Association had held a meeting with a visiting American delegation in September and presented the problems faced by Jordanian shipping agents and importers as a result of the strict inspection procedures.

The American team was also received by senior Jordanian officials and subsequent reports indicated that a report drafted by the delegation was expected to take into consideration the Jordanian problems with a view to working out "better inspection guidelines" in coordination with the U.N. Security Council.

Jordanian businessmen visit Israel, but government is uninvolved — officials

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Officials Wednesday confirmed that Jordanian businessmen had been visiting Israel and the occupied territories in pursuit of commercial ventures but that the government was not involved in the visits or the discussions they might have had with Israeli officials or businessmen.

"People have been calling government officials to inform them that they are planning to visit, but that is about all of any official involvement in the affair," said a senior official.

According to the official, who preferred anonymity, the government is not discouraging businessmen from exploring prospects in the occupied territories against the improving climate in the quest for Middle East peace. But, he said, it will be some time before the government could become involved since Jordan and Israel have not signed a peace treaty.

"It is difficult to pinpoint this or that delegation visited and held talks with Israelis on business prospects," said the official. "To the best of our understanding there are no such delegations, except perhaps some businessmen getting together and travelling together."

Following Israeli reports of "business agreements" with Jordanian companies, officials have now made it a

policy to get detailed information from businessmen who inform them of their travel plans, the official said.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said in remarks published Wednesday that Jordanian "experts" had "met Israeli ministers and businessmen to develop cooperation projects."

Mr. Eliezer was quoted as saying students at a technical institute in Tel Aviv said that "Israelis in the next few years will begin making huge investments in large construction projects in Jordan."

"We must prepare for a new era in the Middle East which will lead quickly to economic cooperation between Israel on one hand, Morocco, Tunisia, and Qatar on the other," Mr. Eliezer was quoted as saying.

"We don't know when the experts are that he was talking about," said another senior official. "They were definitely not Jordanian government representatives."

In principle, Jordan has accepted that it would have to do business with Israel after an Arab-Israeli peace settlement has been reached.

His Majesty King Hussein said in a U.S. television interview that Jordan had "nothing to fear from" economic cooperation with the Jewish state, but that such cooperation would have to wait until a peace settlement has been signed.

There are also officials who

believe that business interaction with Israelis at this point in time could be counterproductive in terms of advancing the peace process to a just solution to the basic conflict.

"It is overindulgence," said a senior official closely involved with economic development in Jordan. "We should not encourage Israelis into believing that they can hope to have any form of normal ties with the Arabs without granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights and returning the Arab territories Israel is occupying."

Among those who visited Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip recently were bankers, shipping and travel agents, exporters and importers as well as industrialists.

At least three teams of businessmen of Palestinian origin settled outside their homeland visited the occupied territories in the last two months on trips arranged in coordination with Faisal Husseini, a leading figure in peace negotiations with Israel and pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activist in the occupied territories.

PLO sources said those visits were strictly within the framework of the concerned businessmen's involvement in Palestinian economic development and had little to do with doing direct business with Israeli firms.

Sources in the Chamber of

Commerce and the Chamber of Industry, the umbrella groups for businessmen, said they were aware of the visits, but none of them would provide names.

"The vision is medium and long-term," said one source. "No one is going to set up joint ventures here or elsewhere with Israelis until the climate of peace becomes conducive."

"Many businessmen feel that they could lose opportunities if they stayed put," said the source. "They would like to explore and find out for themselves what kinds of opportunities exist so that they could be prepared to move in when the time is right."

"No one could expect to see Israeli products in the Jordanian market tomorrow if that is what the Israelis want," he said. "By and large most businessmen are closely aware of the political implications of doing business with Israel before the basic issues of conflict have been addressed in a manner acceptable to all sides."

On the other hand, businessmen have also come off no better if not more "confused" after talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories, officials say.

"As long as the economic basis for Israeli-Palestinian relations in the next stage is not spelled out, no one is able to see with any sense of

accuracy what is possible and what is not," said the senior official.

The official explained that Jordanian-Palestinian economic links depended to a large extent on the success of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as well as Jordanian-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the joint Jordanian-American-Israeli working group set up during the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Washington in October when he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Banking circles said senior officials from several banks were regular visitors to the occupied territories but that their visits were more related to arrangements for reopening branches closed in the occupied territories in 1967 and exploring prospects for new branches.

"Someone has to go and make the actual arrangements of the ground such as refurbishing the buildings and setting up the infrastructure for banking operations, including recruitment and training of staff," said a senior banker.

Jordanian and Israeli officials have been negotiating terms of Jordanian control of banks in the occupied territories for several months now, but no accord has been reached.

"We are not there yet," said the senior official.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent receives senior British military advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met at his office Wednesday with General Michael Wilkes, the military advisor on Middle Eastern affairs at the British Defence Ministry. They reviewed the general situation in the Middle East and new developments in the international arena as well as issues of mutual concern to Britain and Jordan. Present at the meeting was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh. Earlier, Wednesday the Regent visited the Army Headquarters and met with General Kaabneh. They discussed several matters of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

House panel to draft response to King

AMMAN (Petra) — A Lower House of Parliament committee entrusted with drafting the deputies' response to His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the Throne Wednesday met with House Speaker Taher Al Masri to discuss the contents of the response. The 11-member committee was elected during the House's first session Tuesday and has to finish its work before Sunday when the House will discuss the reply to the speech with which King Hussein opened the 12th Parliament. Mr. Masri said in a statement after the meeting that he would honour his pledge to work closely with the various parliamentary blocs and give momentum to the democratisation process. Five parliamentary blocs have been established since the Nov. 8 elections. These are the 16-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc, the 22-strong Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC), the Jordanian National Front (JNF), which includes eight deputies, the 17-member National Action Front

(NAF) and the Independent bloc which includes five lawmakers.

Visiting UNESCO official holds talks on education

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Assistant Director General Colin Power, who is visiting Jordan, held talks Wednesday with Minister of Education and Higher Education, Khaled Al Omari, and discussed UNESCO's cooperation with Jordan in educational matters. Later Mr. Power told Jordan Television that UNESCO was looking into means of helping Jordan carry out its educational development programme. Mr. Power, who arrived in Amman Monday, was due to leave Thursday for the occupied West Bank.

Vehicle licensing department gets new annex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday inaugurated an annex to its Marka Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Department. The JD79,000 annex consists of additional waiting halls for individuals scheduled to take their driving tests or processing other motor vehicle related matters. The annex was set up to cope with the growing volume of work demand of the department.

Commemorative stamps issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communication and Postal Affairs has issued commemorative stamps on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 58 birthday. It said that the stamps of 80 fils, 125 fils and 160 fils denominations will be available as of Thursday at the post offices.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by artist Farhadi Abdel Hafez at the Balqa Art Gallery in Al Fuhals (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 728992).
- * Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Sahar Saoudi at Alia Art Gallery (9:00-13:30 and 15:00-18:00).
- * Exhibition of pottery by Hazim Al Zu'bi at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al Aydi) — Jabal Amman, Second Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00).
- * Graphic exhibition by Syrian artist Sa'd Haffa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Iranian trade exhibit (includes industrial and agricultural machinery, construction materials, vehicles, foodstuff, cosmetics, and carpets) at the Exhibition Hall on the University Road (10:00-13:00 and 15:00-20:00).
- * Art exhibition by plastic artist Huzam Al Dastaghi at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan.
- * Art exhibition by plastic artist Anwar Hadadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition entitled "Mirage" by artist Ali Al Shami at Al'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.
- * Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

- * Art exhibition by artist Hammoud Shantout at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- * Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Daboud at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- * Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.
- * Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

DRAMAS

- * Drama entitled "The Story of Al Nawras" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. (Thursday and Friday).

SEMINARS

- * Seminar on the role of drama in education at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- * Seminar intended for teachers of the German language on how to introduce foreigners to the art of writing in German by Dr. Ch. Kramer (9:30-13:00).

FILMS

- * Film in English entitled "Van Gogh and the Expressionist School" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

- * Charity bazaar at the Armenian Relief Society — Al Ashrafieh next to the Armenian Orthodox Church Friday.

Energy specialists tackle renewable energy utilisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Fourth Arab International Solar Energy Conference continued its sessions in Amman Wednesday with participants from several countries, presenting papers tackling various topics in the field of renewable energy utilisation.

Dr. Gertsen of the Renewable Energy Unit of the European Community (EC) presented a paper on the current trends and future plans of the European countries regarding renewable energy technologies and their applications, asserting that renewable energy is a potential option to supply certain parts of Europe with their energy needs.

Peter Jensen of Denmark said in his paper that the cost of generating power from wind energy turbines is equal to producing it from coal.

Dr. Jensen added that by the end of 1993, the capacity of the power generated from wind energy will be 300 megawatts. I.e. double Jordan's consumption of electricity.

Hani Mulk, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and president of the Royal Scientific Society, presented a paper entitled "Technology Transfer of Renewable Energy Systems to the Arab World."

Other important papers were presented also by Dr. Valerius Ruiz of Spain; Dr. Waheeb Al-Naser of Bahrain; Dr. Omar Al Sammani of Sudan; Dr. Bin Gadh of Yemen; Dr. Nisreen Ghaddar of the American University of Beirut; and Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Najjar of the United Arab Emirates.

Regional environmental centre to discuss future activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) will organise a meeting here Saturday to discuss developing the centre's programmes in its second stage starting 1994 and ending by the year 2000.

The announcement by the CEHA Amman office said that delegates from various Arab states are expected to take part in the meeting.

Hassan Barnudi CEHA coordinator in Amman, said that the office, established in 1985, provides environmental health programmes and services to states within the Eastern Mediterranean zone.

These activities, he noted, cover water, sanitation, and combating environmental pollution in urban and rural regions caused by chemical and other toxic substances. In addition, he said, the centre tackles environmental health issues of refugee camps and deals with questions related to safe food.

Referring to the CEHA's first stage 1985, Mr. Barnudi

said that it was aimed at enhancing manpower potentials, material resources and technical means available at the regional and international levels to help the countries of the region.

The second meeting on Saturday, he said, is being convened as part of a follow up on research and development in organisational and technological fields, and it will focus also on CEHA's financial resources and the centre's cooperation with national and international organisations operating in Jordan to make the second stage a success.

According to CEHA, many of the problems that currently face the region with regard to environmental health are complex and intrinsically associated with the needs of economic, social and industrial development.

In addition, the potential for severe environmental damage through uncontrolled or haphazard industrial and urban expansion is great.

Chilean businessmen to study trade links

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Chilean commercial delegation headed by the director of the international economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Alex Meneses, is due in Amman Thursday on a four-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation, which includes Chilean businessmen representing producers and exporters of medical equipment, will hold meetings with Jordanian businessmen and officials, according to a statement from the Chilean embassy in Amman.

The visit is part of Chile's endeavours in 1993 and 1994 to strengthen Jordanian-Chilean economic cooperation and trade links.

It was that the delegation will meet Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket, heads of the chambers of trade and industry as well as businessmen and importers of medical equipment.

Coinciding with the visit, the Chilean government has arranged for an exhibition, at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, of samples of Chilean products.

According to the statement, the Chilean government has invited Jordanian officials and businessmen to Chile to explore the possibilities of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and the prospect of establishing regular shipping lines between Aqaba and Chilean ports.

Ministry implements plans for construction of 20 new earth dams

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has started implementing plans for the construction of 20 earth dams in various parts of the Kingdom, including the desert and the Jordan Valley, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish.

These dams are within the framework of the ministry's water harvesting project which is scheduled to be completed in 1994, said the minister during inspection trips to the dams under construction in Swaga, Sultani and Qatraheh.

The total storage capacity of these three dams, he said, could reach up to four million cubic metres annually.

Within a week the ministry will begin constructing Al Jubairat dam, located some 40 kilometres southeast of Qatraheh, Mr. Kakish said, adding that the dam is to be set up on the site of an ancient Roman

dam and will have a storage capacity of 25,000 cubic metres.

According to Mr. Kakish, work was progressing at Qatraheh Dam which has a two million cubic metre capacity and is due to be completed early next year.

The minister was accompanied by Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah who said the completion of these dams will mean no water shortages in their respective areas.

Harnessing the rain water in these dams will increase the area of pasture lands and boost farming, he added.

Dr. Wishah said that during the Arbor Day celebration in January thousands of fruit and forest trees will be planted in the Swaga Dam area, which would eventually be transformed into a tourist attraction, complete with all basic services.

He said the JVA and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) are conducting studies on how to deal with landslides which have recently started in the southern Jordan Valley region.

He also said that the JVA has worked out an integrated development plan for the Wadi Araba region.

Dr. Wishah said that work has already started on the construction of 84 housing units in four Wadi Araba regions. This plan entails building schools, health centres, roads and other basic services which will be set up after the housing units have been constructed, he added.

The minister and Dr. Wishah toured JVA projects in the southern Jordan Valley and discussed with the Karak governor topics related to the water situation in the governorate.



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Jordan Times

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Fresh hope for Bosnia

THE EC countries seem to be trying a new remedy, hitherto untried, to treat the Bosnian conflict. And it may just succeed. The EC foreign ministers agreed Monday to offer Serbia, the principal partner and the culprit in the conflict, a "gradual suspension" of sanctions in exchange for territorial concessions to the Bosnian Muslims, the main victims in the armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This new initiative is spearheaded by the French and Germans and deserves genuine support.

Given the fact that the West has ruled out direct military intervention to save the Bosnians from genocide and other forms of crimes against humanity, the next best thing is to try the economic card. The potency of the economic factor in defusing the situation in Bosnia cannot be underestimated since the Serbian economy is in shambles due to international sanctions and suffers from a runaway inflation that may destroy even the political fabric of the republic. The timing of the offer to the Serbs could not be better; it may still offer new vistas for resolving the armed and political conflict between the Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

What the European countries have failed to do is to first extend this new tool of diplomacy to the Croats as well since they have also become an important antagonist of the Muslims. Likewise, the EC initiative should also be complemented by an offer to gradually suspend the military embargo imposed on the Muslims. The Bosnian Muslims have been pleading for lifting the arms embargo which has been applied indiscriminately on all the parties to the conflict, irrespective of whether they were victims or aggressors. The unfairness of the arms embargo is so blatant that one wonders why it continues till this late hour. It is true that U.S. President Bill Clinton made a faint attempt to lift the arms sanctions against the Bosnian Muslims, but did not succeed due to London's stance on the Bosnian situation. And Washington's bid to rectify the situation was so lukewarm and irresolute that western European countries have interpreted it as being not serious at best and only a political gimmick at worst.

Next Monday's conference in Geneva on Bosnia is supposed to be a follow-up on this latest EC proposal. Ostensibly, the principal item on the Geneva meeting to be attended by the military and political leaders of the three fighting factions will be the issue of guaranteeing aid supplies to Bosnians. As pressing as medical and food supplies to the victims of the war in Bosnia is, there is little doubt that the occasion will be also used to press ahead for a political solution which is more workable than the ones already tried and failed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday criticised a statement by Nabil Shaath, a leading Palestinian negotiator with Israel, in which he made suggestions about a union between Israel, Palestine and Jordan. Mr. Shaath has the right, as a Palestinian, to discuss and suggest ideas related to Palestinian-Israeli relations and has the right to deal with Israeli-Palestinian joint ventures, but has no right to make suggestions involving Jordan, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that Mr. Shaath does not realise the impact of his suggestions on the man in the street in Jordan and seems ignorant of the fact that the Jordanians are indeed concerned with fusing economic unity with Syria, Iraq and Lebanon and also Saudi Arabia, said Masarweh. Indeed, the people of Jordan are concerned with attaining a durable peace that would entail full Israeli withdrawal from Arab land; but until that peace has materialised nothing can be achieved towards economic cooperation and only then Jordan can decide on its own involvement in any economic moves, continued the writer. He said that any Jordanian decision can only be taken by Jordan and should be first debated in Parliament. He added that we had hoped that Mr. Shaath would have read the recent statements by the Central Bank governor about Jordan's orientations and its tendency to turn to economic unity with the other Arab countries rather than with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily noted that the continually rising cost of living in Jordan is not affecting people's food and clothing only, but also their medication and other necessities. Taher Udwan said that the new Parliament should direct its attention towards the cost of living, poverty and unemployment and alleviate the burdens of the Jordanian families. The writer said that unemployment can only be dealt with through more investments, but businessmen say that they cannot expand because the government imposes heavy taxes on their products making them uncompetitive in the markets, and these taxes constitute an obstacle in the way of expansion.

Women and political life — a battle on two fronts

By Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Even though supporters of active women involvement in the Kingdom's political life are certainly justified in rejoicing over the election of a woman MP, they should by no means be overjoyous. For one thing, the "victory" is at best humble; women have obtained only one seat out of 80, a seat belonging to a minority group. For another (and this ought to cause real concern), the overall attitude of the electorate towards women is still far from acceptable.

In an attempt to assess public opinion regarding female participation in political matters, I conducted the following experiment. I chose two groups, each consisting of 30 members, half male and half female. The first comprised university students, the second common people from the various walks of life. I asked them three questions: A) Should there be women in Parliament? B) Would women do a good job as MPs? C) Would you vote for a woman yourself?

I explained that even though the three questions were strongly related, each aims to elicit a specific response. I also explicitly requested the participants to write down not what they thought they ought to say but what they really felt. I adopted a variety of tactics to ensure confidence and I believe the responses were fairly reliable.

A careful analysis of the answers reveals the following specific results. First, those who think that women can be as efficient and effective in

politics as men, and that they are generally equal in ability, are a small minority (5-10 per cent). One participant writes: "I don't care if the Parliament is all male or all female. I would vote for the person who most convinces me of his/her ability to do the job right, be it a man or a woman." Such an enlightened position, expressed by males and females alike, is extremely healthy and positive.

Second, some (a significant minority, 30-40 per cent) feel that women have the right to nominate themselves and be elected. There is nothing inherently wrong with a woman candidate. Potentially, women are as able and capable as men. However, there are three reasons why respondents belonging to this category think they cannot vote for them.

a) Women in our society, unlike those in the more advanced countries, have had limited exposure to public (political, social, economic) affairs. They have therefore (generally speaking) neither the skill nor the experience. As one participant puts it, "There are no real Thatchers in our society, not even Bhuttos."

If you challenge such a view and say that there are in fact many women who have been working as diligently and impressively as Ms. Thatcher, they would respond: Where are they? If they are not visible to us, how can we see them?

b) A woman cannot hold a very demanding political position and take good care of her family at the same time. While she may excel in

one, she will definitely fail in the other. A female graduate student of English literature writes: "I truly admire Hanan Ashrawi; she is my hero. But I often wonder about her husband and kids. Who looks after them when she is away for such long periods?"

Such respondents, male and female, firmly believe that family responsibility for women comes before public responsibility.

"Our educational institutions have not succeeded in shaping the attitudes of both sexes towards each other in any desirable way. As a matter of fact, the many misconceptions men and women have with respect to each other (but especially towards the latter) seem to have no room whatsoever in the curriculum. It is indeed a shame that the ideas of most of our university students are not in any way different from those of their provincial, old-fashioned, and uneducated grandparents."

c) In theory, women may do an exceptional job; in practice, however, they will not because our society, which is extremely conservative, repressive and dismissive of women's views, will severely cripple their performance. "It is a society which listens to men not to women. I'd rather vote for the candidate who knows how to deal with our patriarchal institutions smoothly," says one respondent.

Third, and most upsetting, a comfortable majority (55-60 per cent) is remarkably old-fashioned and sexist. This group embraces very faithfully all the stereotypically

chauvinistic and misogynic

conceptions one can think of. According to them, women are physically, emotionally and mentally weaker than men; their role ought to be confined to bringing up children; they need not speak for themselves because men can speak for them.

A female student writes: "I know from experience that women are too emotional and that they do not think

female, believe they cannot, so far, take any of the women who run for political posts in our society seriously because such women "seem foreign to us; they do not think the way we think, they do not speak the way we speak." h) Two female students emphasise that women, whether qualified or not, must run for the Parliament "for the mere fact that women ought to be represented by women. Their mere presence is crucial."

In addition to these four points, two general conclusions emerge. First, there is no significant difference between the opinions of the first group (which is more educated) and those of the second. True, the terminology of the former is somewhat more careful and sophisticated. However, the message itself is fundamentally the same. This means, in my opinion, that our educational institutions have not succeeded in shaping the attitudes of both sexes towards each other in any desirable way. As a matter of fact, the many misconceptions men and women have with respect to each other (but especially towards the latter) seem to have no room whatsoever in the curriculum. It is indeed a shame that the ideas of most of our university students are not in any way different from those of their provincial, old-fashioned, and uneducated grandparents.

Second, and very interestingly, gender does not seem to be a significant variable. Men and women express almost the same views on the three questions. In fact, the tone and diction are often so identical that it is impossible

to tell whether the respondent is male or female. This particular phenomenon is obviously disturbing for advocates of women's rights have to deal with false notions about women in the minds of the two sexes. Sadly, some women are more ignorant of and hostile to women's rights, or even more patronising, than men are.

Clearly, if serious progress in the cause of women's rights is to be made in our society, a battle will have to be fought on at least two fronts.

A) Women who hold any political or public office will not only have to prove to the sceptical or prejudiced majority that they are capable of running affairs as effectively as men, but will also, more importantly, have to make themselves more visible. If you dance in the dark, no one sees you.

B) Advocates of women's rights will have to begin by educating (or rather re-educating) all people in our society about women. All the misconceptions will have to be met and addressed. Ignorance is our hidden enemy. I have found, from experience, that the majority is sexist because it does not know any better. The minute you talk to people seriously and explain, they listen. The majority in our society is reasonable.

Let us celebrate a little, but get down to the real work.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

By Dr. James Zogby

Political analysts and leaders in both parties have showered President Clinton with praise for his winning performance in the congressional vote over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) last week. There is no doubt that this was a Clinton victory. During the last few weeks before the "NAFTA" vote, the president met with 150 members of Congress, held 18 mass meetings with business and political leaders and worked the phones non-stop, winning over new supporters for the bill.

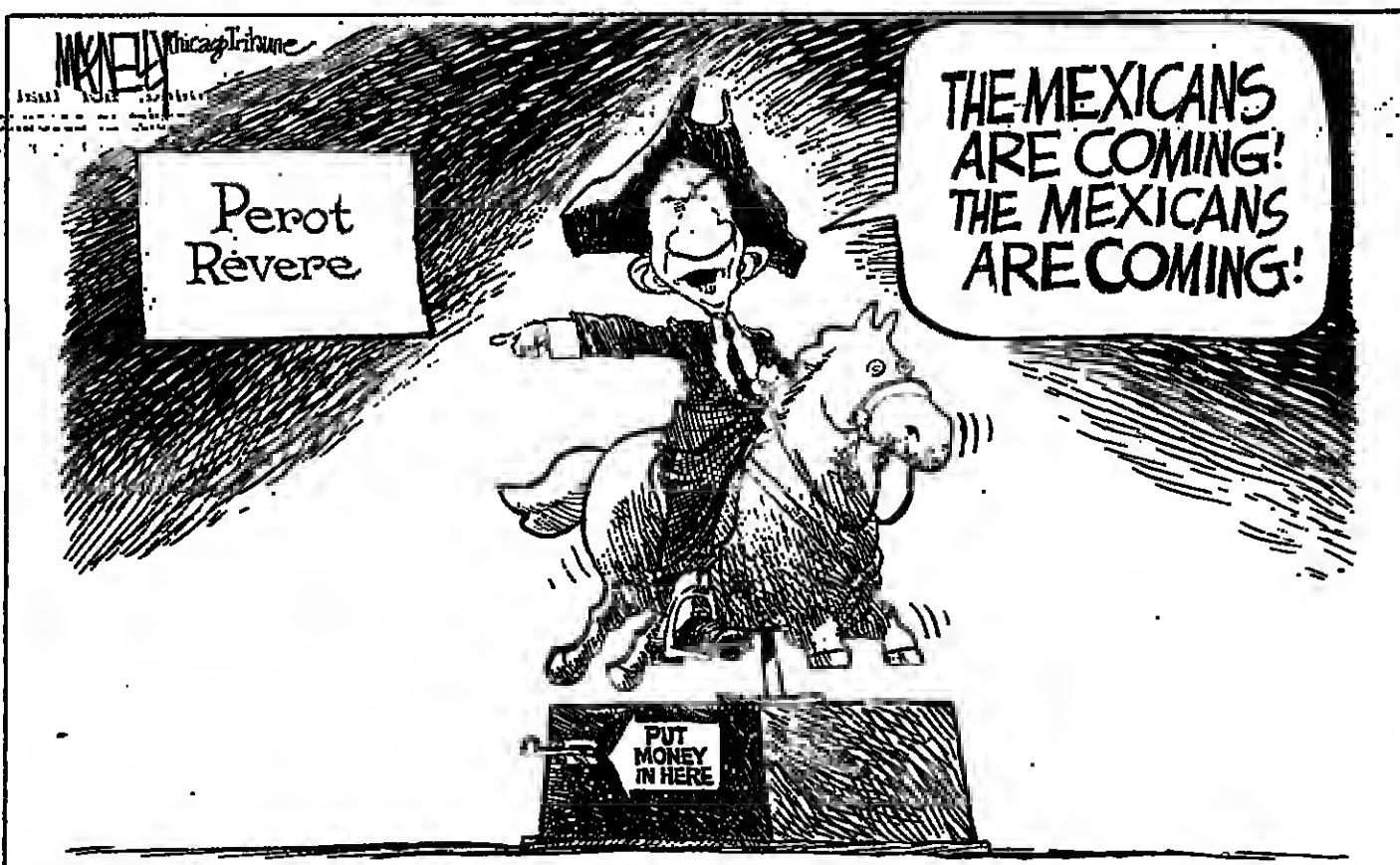
The week before the vote, NAFTA was given little chance of passing. Even two days before the final ballot, the count stood at 186 for the agreement and 206 opposed. After a White House dinner meeting with 25 undecided members, a day of last minute phone calls and some creative deal-making, the vote tally switched to 217 for and 197 against. But Mr. Clinton kept working and was rewarded when the final vote tally came in 234 for NAFTA and only 200 against.

Throughout the final weeks leading up to the win, Mr. Clinton looked remarkably strong and confident. One leading political analyst, who is not always favourably disposed towards the president, said that Mr. Clinton was putting on "an awesome display of presidential leadership." Another described him as strong and skilled in the art of politics, saying that the president looked more like Lyndon Johnson (one of the most politically skillful presidents in recent memory) than Jimmy Carter (one of the least skilled handlers of the U.S. Congress, and someone to whom Mr. Clinton had been compared over the past few months).

And, in what for Mr. Clinton must have been the ultimate compliment, one of Washington's leading political commentators, David Broder, indirectly but favourably compared Mr. Clinton's style to that of John F. Kennedy. Although recognising the differences between the two men and their times, Mr. Broder offered a description of Kennedy and his style of leadership that on many issues matches the portrait of Mr. Clinton's first year in office.

The president's relentless lobbying and deal-making also won him respect from the Republican leadership in Congress. One reason that the vote count for NAFTA was so much higher than expected was because Republicans were so impressed by the president's efforts to win Democratic support that they made a determined effort to increase their support for him. This summer Republican leaders had warned that without active and strong public campaigning for NAFTA by the president, they would take a politically safer path and vote against the measure themselves. After Mr. Clinton's incredible effort, they honoured their word and worked hard to hold as many

The NAFTA aftermath — changing patterns and coalitions



votes in the pro-NAFTA column as they could.

With the dust now settling from this vote, Mr. Clinton and the Congress face immediate new challenges, such as a major anti-crime initiative, campaign finance reform and the long-awaited health care bill, which must be analysed in reference to the new circumstances created by the president's resounding victory on NAFTA.

Gained prestige

The NAFTA victory came at a time when the president needed a win; and clearly, the White House is hoping that success will breed success.

As Mr. Clinton left Washington to attend the meetings of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (APEC), he did so with restored international prestige, as the passage of NAFTA showed that he had the political strength to deliver on his international commitments. Now a partner in what will be the world's largest trading bloc, the U.S. future is strengthened for all future trade talks with both Asian countries and the Europeans. And, since the administration has been arguing for months that trade was one of its highest foreign policy priorities, success in these ventures may take some of the heat off Clinton's foreign policy team. Any such change would be welcome in a White House that still wants to "focus like a laser" on domestic concerns.

Even in the short term, a stronger and more confident White House has emerged from this battle with not only

the president but also with his staff having enhanced their reputation for political savvy and an ability to win.

The new coalition

The coalition that won NAFTA will not be long-lived, nor will it, by itself, reshape U.S. politics. But it does point to a few important new political realities that the White House seems to be among the first to understand.

Current domestic and international circumstances cannot be addressed in the framework of traditional Democrat-Republican politics. The issues are too complex for such a neatly bipolar outlook — they require a "new thinking." Mr. Clinton defines himself as a "new Democrat", willing to take conservative stands on some issues and willing to break with the traditional Democratic coalition.

Over NAFTA, Mr. Clinton broke with organised labour and sided with business. To understand the significance of this, one need only know that organised labour is the largest single voting bloc and second-largest source of campaign money in the U.S. And Mr. Clinton did not only break with labour in his position on NAFTA, he publicly picked a fight with labour lobbyists, much the way George Bush picked his fight with the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) over the loan guarantees.

Mr. Clinton has taken similar stands on other pending legislation as he seeks to define a new centre in American politics. Mr. Clinton's crime bill is

tougher than bills passed by Republicans in the past, and his welfare reform bill will also win many Republican supporters.

But the president's health care reform bill package and his opposition to a new conservative deficit-reduction bill will alienate his new-found Republican supporters while winning back his traditional Democratic allies.

This strategy of picking a course first and then finding allies is the pattern emerging from Mr. Clinton's White House first year's legislative agenda. Unwilling to simply follow the course of least resistance within the Democratic Party, the president begins by defining an issue and taking support where he finds it — even if that means that the majority of his support comes from Republicans (as was the case with NAFTA).

Move to the centre

Despite his liberal health care reform proposal, the president's refusal to cut entitlement spending as conservatives demand, it is clear that the Clinton administration's "new Democrat" image is more centrist than previous Democratic administrations. And, clearly, this is the message the president is sending. He is taking a 43 per cent win in November of 1992 and attempting to build a new but flexible bipartisan coalition in Congress and in the public at large in order to pass the most ambitious legislative agenda in 23 years.

Even Mr. Clinton's blowup at the press in an interview with a large-circulation weekly

magazine seems to be part of a well-calculated effort to convey his "new Democrat" image. In one of the most broadly quoted lines of his first year in office, Mr. Clinton said: "I have fought more damn battles here for more things than any president has in 20 years, with the possible exception of Reagan's first budget, and not gotten one damn bit of credit from the knee-jerk liberal press, and I am sick and tired of it..." Although the passion of the statement may be quite genuine, it is worth remembering that during the bruising primary election in 1992, Mr. Clinton lost his temper only once when he knew he was being recorded. Such an emotional statement in a planned interview may be just one more way of delivering the message that he is, indeed, a "new Democrat."

Problems within the Democratic Party

The anger of organised labour is real — as is its political power. They are currently threatening to defeat Democratic members of Congress who supported NAFTA, and leaders of the labour movement have said that President Clinton has "abandoned his role as head of the Democratic Party." Clearly angered by this comment, a leading Democrat responded: "We are not owned by labour."

There is a clear risk in this confrontation. By alienating his strongest political supporters from 1992, Mr. Clinton presents himself with a difficult challenge in 1996, and Democratic members of Congress

who supported NAFTA this year will face a probably more difficult burden in 1994 as they seek reelection.

With an angry labour movement, an alienated African American leadership (which is displeased by both the administration's anti-crime and welfare bills) and a defiant, though somewhat diminished, Ross Perot, all mobilising against supporters of NAFTA, Mr. Clinton's shift to the centre — the Democratic coalition will face serious electoral tests over the next three years in a divided and weakened state.

Patterns

One analyst observed that the pattern of Mr. Clinton's first year in office is "First, take a big issue, make a big speech, get a big boost, fight and win a last minute victory." He went on to say that this is Mr. Clinton's method because he is a president elected by a minority of voters trying to tackle the biggest issues with the biggest stakes and facing down the biggest opposition coalition of any president in recent history.

But there is another pattern that can be said to describe the president. He is governing the country as he governed Arkansas. Few now recall the young and idealistic Clinton who was chosen the youngest governor in the country. Then, he presented dramatic challenges in the state legislature, lost those battles and was unable to win reelection in 1980. From 1980 to 1982, he campaigned vigorously across the state, personally meeting with thousands of voters and learning some lessons of Arkansas politics. He won reelection in 1982 and, with his lessons in mind, worked zealously to win each legislator's vote. His record earned him admiration from fellow Arkansians and fellow governors, and he went on to win reelection four times.

Similarly, after losing the economic stimulus package (rough equivalent of his failed 1980 reelection bid), Mr. Clinton went back to the style of governance that had served him so well as governor. He presents each issue in a speech of glowing and firm principles but then, as he works Congress to win passage of his proposals, he compromises as needed, secure victory. He is relentless and energetic at personal lobbying, deal-making and cost promise — and these three tools have helped him win several victories already this year.

So far, his record is good — a far-reaching deficit reduction bill, a very strong anti-crime bill and now NAFTA. Whether this style of governance, which is now working well to win over legislators and achieving his goals, will help his congressional supporters in 1994 and his own reelection campaign in 1996 is uncertain.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

هكذا على الأقل

Modern music with Jordanian identity

By Mohammad Masharga

A group of young Jordanian musicians are enthusiastic about an ambitious project: "The production of a song depicting the Jordanian national identity."

The leader of the group, Tareq Al Nasser, a 25-year-old musician who was involved in music since he was 15 years old says the group's project visualises a modern piece of music bearing the Jordanian identity.

Nasser, who had studied at the National Music Conservatory, says his group has been contemplating this project for two years. The group is determined to present its work in a totally new version and in a modern "language" with a view to winning the hearts and sentiments of the young. The group has therefore decided on a song depicting "real life and reflecting the sentiments and feelings of the soul and the heart."

According to Nasser, Jordanians have for a very long time been influenced by Egyptian and Lebanese songs and music. "Often we hear Jordanian amateur singers singing the songs of the Egyptian and the Lebanese singers as these are closer to the taste of the Jordanian public than others," says Nasser.

The predominance of the Lebanese and Egyptian music and songs totally negated the presence of the true Jordanian national songs; and with the absence of the Jordanian song the traditional music and the Jordanian heritage of music were almost obliterated, says Nasser.

For this reason "we, as a group of enthusiastic youth are trying to revive the Jordanian song and music through modern instruments and with a new spirit," he stresses.

"As an initial step, we have recorded a song depicting realistic problems revolving around an innocent love affair in the rural regions," continues Nasser. The song, in the local dialect, relates the story of a rural young woman who falls in love with a simple shepherd, he explains. "The episode reflects the most innocent form of love and the words are closer to the heart and the soul."

The music accompanying the song is performed by instruments producing something like the sound effects we hear in the movies accompanying the events, he says.

"Our second experiment was with Petra Caravan and Death Of A Bride, two pieces of music which we believe revivify the spirit of Arabic music and reflects the local environment. In the two pieces we introduce the sound of ululation and beating of the drum," Nasser continues.

We wonder if this group of Jordanian musicians can indeed produce works serving as substitutes to the

hitherto local music even different from the predominant Arabic music and songs.

Listening to Tareq Al Nasser discussing his project and outlining the group's high hopes, one can feel that something new and real is brewing, reflecting the musicians' search for identity similar to feelings that are reflected in the works of story-tellers, play-wrights, plastic artists and others.

"I dream of composing music for Amman, the city which I adore because I feel I am addicted to its atmosphere and fascinated with walking at night in its various districts which give me a feeling of intimacy and familiarity," Nasser says. "This is a mysterious city... beautiful and chaotic and yet reflecting uniformity," he says of the capital. "This mixed feeling creates in me the desire for singing and composing music reflecting these feelings in a synchronised manner," he adds.

Noting that his group was deeply influenced by the sound effects composed by Peter Gabriel for the movie entitled *The Last Wish Of Christ* and another composed by Jean Michel Jarre, Nasser says that the works have not only encouraged his group to carry on with their projects but also justified such work.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Nasser hopes that the group's work will resemble the more flexible European and American music and songs which he says are nowadays blended with the oriental taste for the sake of diversity and for reaching out to more listeners and influencing more souls with the new oriental melody.

"If you want to enable your music and songs to attain worldwide fame, you should start by developing your local musical works, and in this case, the Jordanian music and songs which reflect the local Jordanian environment and the Jordanian traditional art and folklore," Nasser says.

According to Nasser, Jordanian musicians face a great challenge in their quest to ensure for themselves recognition in the Arab World.

"When abroad, one is often asked if Jordanian has its own national music and there is no reply to that question, he adds. This challenge has motivated me to take my work to Damascus and enter a song contest for a Syrian singer Amal Arafah," notes Nasser. "My work has won in the face of a strong competition by Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian composers."

"Indeed when the Syrian Television broadcast my tunes they were warmly welcomed by the Syrian

musicians, and when Najdat Enzour, the Jordanian television director heard he called me at once and asked that I compose sound effects for his coming television serial entitled *Demise Of A Brave Man* written by the Syrian writer Hanna Mina."

The story revolves around events in the Syrian city of Latakia and "this prompted me to visit Latakia to look for a suitable tune for the movie. I searched through the songs and music of seamen and fishermen until I finally composed a piece which I believe would hold the Jordanian musicians in high esteem and win them fame," says Nasser.

"If we wish to produce Jordanian music that can be accepted at the world level it is inevitable to present something creative rather than follow the pattern of the traditional Arabic music that has prevailed for ages. We have vast technology to help us to diversify our music and songs and attain our goals," adds Nasser.

Asked whether the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation was interested in his music, he said it is rather regrettable that the corporation "continues to believe that Jordanian music is still lagging behind others and is still at the modest stage."

Jordanian music is still lagging behind others and is still at the modest stage."

"For this reason, the corporation continues to enlist the help of foreign and other Arab groups, paying them thousands of dinars at a time when the Jordanian musicians can, through their efficiency, skill and qualifications, produce better work," claims Nasser. "Jordan can set up groups of oriental musicians, who are now wasting their time in night clubs, and present them to the world."

Self Shihadeh, the conductor of the Amman Players Group, agrees with this view, and says that the revival of the Jordanian music has to date emerged through the individual efforts and sacrifices but not due to the backing of Jordanian institutions.

Shihadeh says the present circumstances are not favourable to the Jordanian musicians, simply because no Jordanian law guarantees the rights of the Jordanian musicians and because Jordanian institutions prefer foreign and other Arab works to Jordanian musicians.

Another musician, Raed Malas, son of the well known Jordanian musician Fuad Malas, says that despite his leaning to music at an early age, his father had advised him to study electronic engineering so as to escape the sufferings which his father had faced in the past as a musician. Raed is an amateur musician, but he manages his own private engineering business.

Diary

WICKED: The election of the first woman to the Lower House of Parliament has been met with mixed reactions from her colleagues. During the opening session of the House on Tuesday, Irbi Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh decided to attract attention to his quick wit by setting a trap for Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant. Rawabdeh arranged with some of his colleagues to leave the seat next to Deputy Toujan Faisal free and placed Sheikh Abu Zant's card on that seat. He then sent one of the House ushers to direct the sheikh to the seat. The sheikh, carrying a newspaper in his hand, walked behind the usher without realising he was being set up. When he reached the seat he realised that it was next to Ms. Faisal and saw the wicked smile on Mr. Rawabdeh's face. Laughingly the sheikh started hitting Rawabdeh with the newspaper in his hand to the amusement, of course, of all present including Ms. Faisal. Sheikh Abu Zant had gone on the record in an interview with a local daily that morning pledging to give Ms. Faisal 10 long dresses if only Ms. Faisal would wear an Islamic dress. He even promised to distribute sweets on the occasion. Someone who read the news commented that the sheikh wanted to shroud his fellow woman deputy into oblivion or cover her up enough to be able to sit next to her without being criticised by his ever present IAF colleagues.

ONE WHAT? Also during discussion in the House's first session Mr. Rawabdeh made a comment in English about the "one-man, one-vote" electoral system. Speaker Taher Masri, being the liberal he is, told Mr. Rawabdeh that it was "one-person, one-vote" replacing "man" with the less sexist term "person." Mr. Rawabdeh was not to take the chiding alone, so he looked at Ms. Faisal and said "I would call it one-woman, one-vote if it were left to me." He would, wouldn't he?

VOICES SO POWERFUL: The newly-elected House Speaker, Taher Masri, was quick to assert his authority over the House during Tuesday's session. Having secured a landslide victory over his IAF rival Abdullah Akaileh, Mr. Masri was not about to lose the momentum of the moment to reverse old traditions dictated by the powerful Muslim Brotherhood deputies in the past Parliament. One of those traditions was that the House would cease deliberation throughout prayer calls heard from the mosque nearby. Amman Deputy Ali Abu Ragheb was reading a list of proposed candidates for a committee to draft a reply to His Majesty The King's address from the throne, when the muazzen started the call for the afternoon prayers. Mr. Abu Ragheb, a former minister now deputy, stopped reading. Mr. Masri was quick to tell him to go on, but Abu Ragheb did not. Again Masri instructed him to go on but still the deputy would not budge. Most of those attending the opening session did not understand why Mr. Abu Ragheb decided to ignore the speaker's urgings. Did he not hear him? Maybe.

MORAL WATCH MINARETS: In another arena not so different, a physical education teacher at a girls public school in Amman has her own story to tell about how certain traditions are affecting her work. The teacher, who has a degree in physical education is apparently ostracised by her fellow teachers at the school — who, she says, are all veiled — because she has not taken the Islamic head dress. So far this can be called a case of birds of a feather flock together and she is obviously of a different feather. But according to the teacher, she has been banned from exercising with her students during her physical fitness sessions, which are normally held in the open courtyard of the school. She is only allowed to give instructions but never show them how the movements are done. In fact during the one occasion when she decided to break this rule and exercise with her students, she was called to the headmistress's office. The headmistress told her that she was never to do that again because the muazzin from the mosque whose minaret overlooks the courtyard saw her exercising with the students and called the school to complain. The strange part is that the headmistress did not question how the muazzin got to the top of the minaret during the physical education class and why he was watching the girls' school courtyard anyway.

VEIL ME NOT: The increased number of students wearing the veil in public schools is not an indication of conviction but fear, a veiled teacher contends. She says a teacher who is not veiled "would have never gotten a job if the administrators of the schools were doing the employing instead of the Ministry of Education." Having little influence over the type of teachers appointed by the ministry, the veiled teachers themselves are exercising their powers over their students. Asked whether the school she works in has any unveiled students, the same veiled teacher said "no." Asked why, she said "because we pressure them to wear the veil." Some parents of the students are fearful of reporting to the ministry. The teacher went on: "We are not aware of any laws that protect the freedom of the students to dress the way they want and we do not know whether we would get anywhere if we do take this up with the ministry." Plus, and the parents only whisper this, "we are poor, where would we send our children if the teachers fail them in their classes or make life difficult for them." Shouldn't they go to Parliament?

Nermeen Murad

Graceless generalisations

De Gaulle And Algeria — 1940-1960

By Michael Kettle
Quartet, L 1993, £45

Et Ils Sont Devenus Harkis

By Mohammad Hamounou
Sagard, Paris 1993, ff120

Les Politiques De Dieu

Edited by Gilles Keppel
Le Seuil, Paris 1993, ff140

The first book's title is promising: De Gaulle And Algeria — 1940-1960; the period covered by the study is more puzzling. Michael Kettle covered the Algerian war of independence for the Sunday Times and devotes virtually all his 634 pages to the two years from May 1958, when General De Gaulle returned to power, to the Barricades Week in Algiers, in January 1960. The author contends that, from that moment, De Gaulle lost the political initiative to the Algerian Front de Liberation National. The FLN had, since 1954, been fighting for an independent Algeria.

The narrative is constantly interrupted with quotes from the diary the author kept in Algiers. This seldom makes interesting reading, 30 years after the events it describes. Too many entries appear to suffer from "journalistic," the author all too often being the focus of attention, rather than the events he is reporting.

The first chapter is a broad-brush portrait of 2,000 years of Algerian history. It is difficult to do justice to so complex a subject in 36 pages, but the task is not helped by remarks such as "the Roman occupation, however, like the French in the 19th century, was never very deep. The tribes in the hills, such as the Chaouia, watched the passage of conquerors, and waited." Four hundred years of occupation did leave a deep imprint as did the fast spread of Christianity. As for the Chaouias, they are not a tribe but a large Berber people who inhabit the Aures Mountains. They did not simply watch the Romans from the hilltops!

The list of sweeping generalisations, often unsupported by historical evidence, is long. For example: "The early colonies behaved better than those in Black Africa, though colonisation in Algeria was haphazard and unregulated." Maybe the author should consult Alexis De Tocqueville, who conducted two parliamentary inquiries in Algeria under the 19th century reign of King Louis Philippe and was so appalled by what he witnessed that he wrote that "L'Algerie c'est la France, sans lois et sans hypocrisie... tout ceci fut dans un bain de sang."

The author's political sympathies are not with those he describes as the "rebels." But to insist that the FLN were "killing eight or even ten times as many of their own people" as the French is a travesty. Furthermore such figures mean nothing since it is impossible for anyone to know precisely what proportion of native Algerians were killed by which faction. The violence the FLN used against the supporters of the veteran nationalist leader, Messali Hadj, or against ordinary Algerians trying to stay away from the conflict is increasingly well documented. This conflict was a civil war among Algerians as well as with French settlers. Gross generalisations do not help to explain the sheer complexity of it and rob the book of much credibility.

Even less gracious is the author's criticism of Alistair Horne's masterful study of the war. The Savage War Of

BOOK REVIEWS

Peace, first published in 1977. Horne may not have told the full story, but 16 years ago, that was an impossible task. Indeed even the fresh material recent testimonies on both sides of the Mediterranean have thrown up still does not allow the full story to be told. If only Kettle had displayed one fraction of the scholarship and sense of organisation Horne had, let alone modesty!

Two books published recently in Paris shed rather more light on modern Algeria. Et Ils Sont Devenus Harkis is painful to read. It addresses the fate of the 260,000 "Harkis," indigenous Algerians who fought with the French in the civil war and were abandoned to their fate when the French withdrew, on the orders of De Gaulle. Up to 160,000 Harkis were massacred by the victorious FLN in 1962-3; between 50-70,000 managed to escape to France with the help of their French officers, who saw the episode as one of the most shameful in modern French history. Harkis and their families numbered around 1.6 million people in 1962. Those who got to France were mostly put in camps and 30 years later remain poor, uneducated and largely unemployed.

France has preferred to forget them: Algeria clings to the myth that the country rose as one against the French. The author is the son of a Harki. His book is the first well documented study of this issue and the more moving for being written with great sobriety.

To understand the deep crisis Algeria is plunged in today, it would be best to turn to the chapter devoted to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the radical Islamic party which was poised to win the suspended Algerian elections last January, in Les Politiques De Dieu, recently published in French. The work was edited by Gilles Keppel, one of the most knowledgeable scholars on modern religious revivalist groups. The chapter devoted to the FIS by Ignace Leverrier is very thorough and provides the best guide to date on this key aspect of Algerian politics. Altogether a more instructive read at a fraction of the price — Middle East International.

Francis Ghiles

A new history of the war

The Making Of The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1947-1959

By Ilan Pappé
I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £39.50

The disappearance of Palestine from the international map and the establishment of Israel in its stead in 1948, and the accompanying uprooting and dispersal of the majority of Palestinians, remain the focus of much of the historical writing on the modern Middle East. Indeed, academic output on the subject has redoubled in recent years as scholars have gained access to official documents and Foreign Ministry archives in Israel and various Western countries. So contentious is the issue, and so controversial the results, that conferences on 1948 and its historiography have become a regular feature of Israeli academic life.

Among the emerging generation of Israeli historians who have made their mark is Ilan Pappé of Haifa University, who joined the ranks of the "revisionists" five years ago with the book *Britain And The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1951*. Since then the "official" historians, now widely recognised as apologists for

Israeli government policy of the period, have given much ground to the younger challengers. This is not to suggest, however, that the "revisionists" are of one mind, nor that fundamental disagreements do not persist in accounts and interpretations between Israeli and Palestinian historians.

It is Pappé's special contribution, therefore, to have made a unique effort to stand back and offer a balanced assessment of the differing versions of 1948. In the process of offering an actual history of events, he refers in certain cases to the debate between historians, and calmly considers each version on its own merits. But he does not seek an artificial balance, nor does he shirk from conclusions that clearly endorse or discredit one interpretation or another. Nowhere is this clearer than in the debate between Israeli historian Benny Morris, one of whose central arguments is that the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948 was more an accident of war than of design, and Palestinian historian Walid Khalidi, who takes the Zionist "Plan Dalet" as a clear example of precisely such design: Pappé joins the latter.

As Pappé states it, however, his aim ultimately is neither to survey the arguments from a safe distance nor simply to restate the "facts" as accurately — possible, but to produce a "new history of the war." He considers that the key to understanding the true course of the conflict lies in addressing the political aspects. To this end he sees his task — having benefited from the triple advantages of declassified material, hindsight and a critical view of the myths and misconceptions that have accumulated on all sides — primarily as one of evaluating the record and drawing firm conclusions about the real intentions of the parties involved.

Pappé's choice of title is particularly apt, therefore, and anyone looking for an authoritative account of 1948 that also takes into consideration all previous efforts should go straight to this book. It is to his additional credit that his text is so easily readable, and his arguments so elegantly contracted. Possibly most important, though, is that Pappé is one of a very few Israeli scholars whose works form a common "bridge" with the small but growing number of Palestinian historians of his generation or younger with a similar academic outlook — Middle East International.

Yezid Sayigh

Thoughts for this week

If there is no hell, a good many preachers are obtaining money under false pretences — Attributed to William A. "Billy" Sunday, American baseball player-turned-Evangelist (1862-1935).

You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute — Dag Hammarskjöld, U.N. secretary-general (1905-1961).

I'm a ragged individualist — Jane Ace, American radio actress (1905-1974).

There are very few monsters who warrant the fear we have of them — Andre Gide, French author and critic (1869-1951).

Religion without joy — it is not religion — Theodore Parker, American religious leader (1810-1860).

The imperceptible process of age has a point which, once passed, cannot be retraced. I knew I had passed that point and was getting old the day I noticed that all the cops looked so young — Harry Lewis Golden, American author, editor and publisher (1903-1981).

Playing the right cards

By Jean-Claude Eliss

Of all the options and accessories one can add to a personal computer (PC), sound cards might be the most "fashionable" these days.

A regular PC comes with a very poor sound system, namely a small speaker with possibilities limited to a few beeps and ear piercing sinusoidal waves.

With the invasion of computer games on one hand, and music and Windows applications on the other, having a quality sound system on a computer has become a must. Currently, the multi-media market is on a steep expansion slope and might very well be the fastest growing segment in the field. Multi-media is the combination of sound and image on the PC. Simply put, it is the audio visual part of computing.

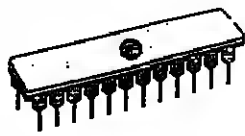
To compensate for the weakness of the built-in speaker, the easiest to implement and the best solution is a sound card. It consists of a small electronic board, approximately 4 X 9 inches, that plugs in the PC bus, provided there is an empty slot for that. If your PC has already received a fax card, a modem card, a MIDI interface or a scanner interface and some other circuitry, your bus, that typically provided you with six empty slots when you bought it, might not have enough of them for the sound card. In such a case, you have to decide which card to sacrifice or buy another PC.

A sound card usually comes with the necessary software to drive it and a pair of external speakers that would normally deliver a stereo sound. Once correctly installed and working, you can enjoy playing games with great music. You can also record sounds of your own via optional or supplied microphone. These sounds can become part of your programmes and be activated in and from Windows whenever you want them. Some cards also come with a text-to-speech software that takes any text you would type in and read it, out loud, via the speakers, in a robotic voice.

For even better results, you can connect the sound card directly to your home stereo system and enjoy the powerful sound of your amplifier.

An important feature of quality sound cards is the possibility to record live music, your voice, your guitar

chip talk



playing or Radio Jordan, digitally on your hard disk. Remember however that digital sounds occupies disk space at the rate of 5 to 10 MB for each recorded minute. Consequently, and unless you purchase expensive, large capacity, writeable optical discs, it remains limited to short duration recordings. As great as all this sounds, the catch, once again is in compatibility and in specifications.

Among the many available sound cards, two of them seem to have taken ninety per cent of the world market. They are Sound Blaster, by Creative Labs and Sound Galaxy by Aztech Systems. Both are designed and made in Singapore. These two manufacturers supply models that would work with virtually any software or game. Other brands might not give the user full compatibility.

Both Creative Labs and Aztech Systems offer different models, that basically give different levels of sound quality. Having tested some of them, I found that only the very best in each category is acceptable. In order to have a quality stereo sound, the card must work at 44.1 KHz rate and in full stereo. Some models give you 44.1 KHz or stereo, but not both at the same time. Such entry level cards allow you to run at 44.1 KHz in mono or at 22 KHz in stereo. Totally unacceptable. The Compact Disc CD-rate is 44.1 KHz, stereo, and has been defined as the norm for quality, hi-fi sound.

The good news is the relatively low cost of both the Sound Blaster and the Sound Galaxy. From entry level to the high end models, prices vary from JD 100 to JD 300. Whatever model you choose, it will be an excellent value for the price.

Clumsy revisited

By E. Yaghi

The following is not intended to slander any persons accused or guilty of blundering.

Clumsy looked and acted exactly like his name. Anyone observing his motions could discern a head that wobbled as if it were going to fall off at any moment and arms and legs that seemed to be misconnected in their sockets. It's not that the wretched man meant to harm himself or others, but rather that perhaps he just shouldn't have been born in the first place. For example, take the other day. He stood on a busy street and patiently waited to cross. Just when traffic was at its most congested, the blunderer decided to cut in front of a long line of motor vehicles, police and all. It happened that he stepped right in front of a huge bus and before the driver could stop, it dragged Clumsy to the ground. Panic stricken, the operator jumped off the bus after screeching to an abrupt halt and to the downfallen victim who fortunately wore a thick coat. "Aaare yyou OK? Diddd yyyou get hurt?"

Whereas Clumsy scrambled to his feet with the coat sleeve dangling where it had been ripped off and with all the dignity he could muster, growled: "Yes, I'm all right, but no thanks to you. You almost killed me. Didn't they teach you how to watch out for pedestrians?"

In a fit of nervous shock, the driver fumbled in his pants for some cigarettes and as his hands violently shook, finally lit one. Luckily, the police determined that the fault lay with the idiot who cut in front of traffic, not the driver who swore that from that day on, if he started to death, he would never operate a bus again.

Clumsy is noted for being a regular handyman around the house. Not too long ago, he decided to fix the light which had burned out in his study, so he dragged the kitchen table all through the house banging through doors and slamming walls wherever he went. At last he plunged the heavy piece of furniture down and climbed on top of it, teetering like a man on a tightrope. As he successfully screwed the light cover in place, he moved too close to the edge and came tumbling down like a small earthquake. His wife and children rushed to the rescue and after assuring herself that no bones were broken, she scolded him with, "you are just like a bull in a china shop. You must be more careful. One of these days you will have a serious accident!"

To which he complained: "Women! They're always nagging. Nag, nag, nag. Never leave a man in peace."

One thing he excels at is being a good parent. The other day he took his small son to the pediatrician and when the child was diagnosed as having tonsillitis Clumsy said: "Thanks, Doc. Here's your fee." And

headed out the door, only to hear: "Hey wait a minute. You forgot your son!"

Chagrined, the red-faced parent fetched his son and got out of that clinic as soon as possible. It was raining and as he clutched his child tightly to protect him from getting wet, he suddenly slipped and fell into a jack puddle. The toddler had a surprised look on his face, but wasn't hurt, as Clumsy had born the brunt of the fall and he gathered himself and child with all the dignity he could manage and proceeded to walk borne covered with mud to the astonished glances of scurrying passers-by. "Why is it that people can't let a man be?"

During his lunch break the other day, Clumsy decided to go to the local library and do some research on a business project. As he ascended some steps at the front of the library, he fell over his shoes and grabbed the man next to him to gain his balance. Recovering from this near disaster, he later ascended another flight of stairs, this time with a load of books under his arm. As luck would have it, he was looking the other way and with a big thump on the stairs, found himself sprawling over his glasses. Well, he got himself up as fast as possible and mumbled as he departed the building in silence. "Humph! All everybody does in this graveyard of dilapidated books is stare and no one ever smiles!"

Outside in the sunshine, he caught up with one of his colleagues who was heading back to work. Perhaps because he was in a hurry, all at once, his feet flew from under him. "Ob," his friend cried, "are you all right? Are you sick?"

Miffed at such an insinuation, Clumsy returned: "Of course not. Anyone can fall!"

But then a few steps later, he repeated his performance to the startled attention of citizens sitting on the grass or park benches nearby. His buddy, by now very concerned, queried: "Are you sure you're not ill?"

He struggled to get up as quickly as possible and with an injured ego snarled: "Why do you keep asking such silly questions? Anyone can fall!"

"Not twice in the same place," was the answer. So, he trudged off alone to his office building feeling greatly misunderstood. And with a somewhat gauche heave, burst through the office door only to flatten his boss, who was just leaving, like a moth on the floor.

"Oh, sir, I'm terribly sorry," he groaned as he scraped his employer off the woodwork.

In a purple rage, his boss shouted: "Take a long leave of absence and don't bother to call us, we'll call you!"

That night, knowing that only at home he is really appreciated, poor Clumsy rocked his youngest child on the bottom of his legs. Carried away with the fun, the baby flopped over on his face and howled in protest. At least he wasn't seriously hurt but only had a blue forehead and red nose to show for his experience.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 25

8:30 Family Matters

Man's Best Friend

Dog is man's best friend, as Carl will tell his children when they bring a lost dog home!

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Icelandian

Maggie defends a famous hockey player who is charged with killing a man during a fight.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Midnight Run

Starring: Robert De Niro and Charles Godin

Friday, Nov. 26

8:30 E.N.G.

The Sleep Of Reason

Sensational news is now covered more heavily on Channel-10 following the takeover by millionaire Adam Hersb. But certainly Mike and Anne will not stand by and watch.

9:30 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

11:10 Are You Being Served

Captain Peacock helps himself to flatter the ladies in the shop — to the annoyance of his wife... of course.

Saturday, Nov. 27

8:30 The Fancili Boys

Tarnished Angel

Ronnie's girlfriend, Jennifer, admires his brother Dominique; her admiration leads Dominique towards a marriage proposal.

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Widow Maker

Starring: Annabelle Epsion and David Morrissey

The story of a wife who is shocked to know about her husband's mental sickness and unfaithfulness.

Sunday, Nov. 28

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Our weekly date with comedian Bill Cosby and new competitors on his quiz

show that offers the grand prize of \$10,000.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Never Better

Now that Suzanne is in New York, Gary takes care of their daughter all by himself, with a little help from Ellen, who finds a new love.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Men Who Killed Kennedy

Producer/director Nigel Turner investigates the massive cover-up behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy... with the help of eye-witnesses and experts.

11:10 Golden Palace

Miles We Hardly Knew Ye'

Monday, Nov. 29

8:30 Delta

White Women Can't Jump

Delta and her friend Connie are betting on winning a basketball game with two men.

9:10 The House Of Eliott

Evie's surprise twenty first birthday does not help ease

her pain and suffering over Sebastian's death.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Guilty

Starring: Michael Kitchen and Sean Gallagher

Tuesday, Nov. 30

8:30 Night Court

Earthquake

9:10 Brand New Life Private School

Christy goes to a private school, and Barbara goes to a law school.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Anna Karenina

Starring: Greta Garbo and Fredric March

Wednesday, Dec. 1

8:30 Head Of The Class

The Secret Life Of Arvid Engen

9:10 Ocean World

10:00 News In English

10:20 Till Murder Do Us Part

Starring: Meredith Baxter and Stephen Collins

BON VOYAGE:

Your Happy Singles decided on living it up a little more; they're set to take a nice voyage, each to a different destination. Each using his or her favorite means of transportation.

Given the clues below, can you determine where did each one decide to go, and what means of travel did each one use to make the voyage more delightful?

Clues:

1. Kate Funk did not go aboard the Love Boat to the French River, where she usually goes every year.

2. Discovery took its voyager to the Grand Mount, Bob Cool was not on its board.

3. Joyce Hun took Nippon Lines to her destination which was not the Moon Beach.

4. Tri Airlines carried a male voyager around the globe, and Jay Happy went aboard the Love Boat.

	LOVE BOAT	THI AIRLINES	NIPPON LINES	DISCOVERY	APOLLO YACHT	BIRD ISLAND	ROUND GLOBE	FRENCH RIVER	GRAND MOUNT	MOON BEACH
JAY HAPPY										
KATE FUNK										
BOB COOL										
ED DANCE										
JOYCE HUN										
BIRD ISLAND										
ROUND GLOBE										
FRENCH RIVER										
GRAND MOUNT										
MOON BEACH										

VOYAGER	TRANSPORT	DESTINATION

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حقوق الطبع محفوظة المكتبة الوطنية (٩٣/١/١٣)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

STRANGE BUT TRUE

* A Londoner made a nice looking necktie with a brush to remove dust accumulated on clothes. He shaped it like a ribbon that has nylon strings and added it to the end of the necktie.

* There lives in the tropical zones a kind of fish very strange in the position of its eyes. While in water, the upper half of its eyes appears on the surface whereas the other half rests below.

* The habit of hurling shoes on the newly-married couples emerged from the ancient tradition of giving a shoe as symbol of transferring ownership.

* The bee can go on nearly 20,000 trips to neighbouring gardens for collecting nectar just to make one pound of honey.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

NATIONALITY

— What is your nationality? Ma haya jinsiyatuk?
— I'm Jordanian. (English, American, Japanese, Greek, Swedish)
Ana Orduni. (Inglezi, Amreeki, Yabani, Yunani, Swedi)

— Have you got any identification papers?
Hal ladayka ayy awrak litahkeek el-shakhsiya?
— I have my passport. Ladayya jawaz safari.
— Have you been here for a long time?
Hal akanta hana mudda taweele?

— Most recently. Mouzo waqt kareeb jiddan.
— Show me your registration card, please.
Arini hitak al-tasjeel, min fadlak.

— I'm stateless. Can I claim the Jordanian nationality?
Ana bidoon jinsiya. Hal yomkikoni talab al-jinsiya al-Orduniya?

— Are you a foreigner?
— I'm an Indian subject.
Hal anta ajnabi?
Ana min ra'aya Al Hind.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

MARTIAL ARTS: Any of various forms of self-defence, usually weaponless, based on techniques developed in ancient China, India and Tibet. In modern times they have come into wide use for self-protection and as competitive sports. The basic system, jujitsu, teaches skills that enable one to overcome physically superior opponent. Judo, a Japanese sport created in 1882, makes use of jujitsu principles. Other popular forms include Karate, which emphasises blows with the side of the hand, and Kendo, in which bamboo 'swords' covered with leather are used.

NATIONAL GUARD: U.S. militia authorised by the constitution. During peacetime it operates under state jurisdiction and can be used by governors to quell local disturbances, as in Newark and Detroit riots in 1967. In times of war and other emergencies it is absorbed into the standing

army and is under the command of the president. It was partially mobilised during the Korean War (1951-1953) and the Berlin crisis of 1961. Enlistment is voluntary.

HUMOUR

* Two married persons were chatting together when the first asked: "What is the happiest time you have?"
The Second: "Between 3 and 6 a.m."
The First: "Do you enjoy sleep during this time?"
The Second: "No, my wife is fast asleep at this particular juncture."

* In a lunatic asylum.
DOCTOR: Why did you come to this place?
Are you married?
PATIENT: (Distressed) This is the chief cause that made — me come here.

ARABIC NAMES AND THEIR MEANINGS

AZMI: Firm; energetic; one who fulfils a promise.
AZZAAM: The lion; determined; resolute.
ARAR: A yellow spice with good smell; wild narcissus.

AKIF: One who is busily engaged in religious affairs at a mosque.

ASIM: Protector; guardian.

ATIF: One who sympathises; loincloth; wrapper shawl.

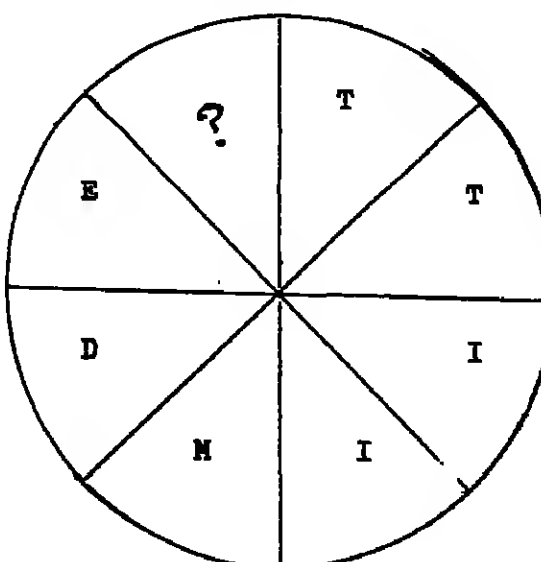
AABID: Worshipper; adorer; servant.

PUZZLES

(A) FIVE QUESTIONS

1. What letter of the alphabet stings?
2. What letter of the alphabet is smaller than an ocean but larger than a lake?
3. What letter of the alphabet do you find on your face?
4. What letter of the alphabet is a bird?
5. What letter of the alphabet is a girl's name?

(B) INSERT THE MISSING LETTER



هكذا على الشكل

Donald Sutherland — the original Homer Simpson

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Did you know that Donald Sutherland once played Homer Simpson?

No. Not that one — the cartoon buffoon, the patriarch of The Simpsons. That was his actor's name in The Simpsons, the 1975 television series. Sutherland, however, didn't laugh as others do

when he's reminded of the Simpson connection — perhaps because he's unfamiliar with the Fox Network series.

"I liked that character. I liked that character a lot," he says seriously. "It was the last review I ever read."

It was Pauline Kael's review in the New Yorker. "I have it in my head. Burned. Burned," he says, his slow, soothing baritone rising.

"On the first page she said that the novel really shouldn't have been written, but since it was, OK. But it shouldn't have been made into a film, but if they

were going to make it into a film, they should have brought it up to date and not shot it in Los Angeles, but shot it in Las Vegas. It should never have been done by a foreign director." And on and on.

He recalls reading that long-ago review in a hotel lobby while Schlesinger was sitting across from him.

"And by this time we're into four pages, and then she trashed Karen Black and William Atherton. And it then gets to the bottom of this page... and it says, 'there's nothing specifically wrong with Donald Sutherland's performance as Homer Simpson. It's just awful.'"

Schlesinger rolled on the floor, laughing, when he got to that point.

If Sutherland read the notices of his latest film, Dr. Bethune, he would have enjoyed various tributes. But the movie came and went at most theatres in a heartbeat, probably because, as one critic put it, "whatever happened in the editing room shouldn't happen to sausage."

Sutherland, whose breakthrough role came in M-A-S-H as Korean War medic Hawkeye, says Bethune's idealism led him to play another doctor.

He notes that Bethune put hospitals on the backs

of mules and on wagons to bring them to the front in war-torn China in the 1930s.

The role evoked a bit of chauvinistic pride for the native of St. John, New Brunswick. He played the Canadian surgeon because he feels Canada needs as many folk heroes as it can get.

"Robertson Davies (the Canadian writer) said the only difference between Canada and the United States is just a question of frontiers. In the United States it's the old west and your hero is the outlaw; and Canada, our frontier is the far north and our hero is the mounted policeman. And mounted policemen don't really make great heroes."

When it's suggested that Dudley Do-Right might qualify, he laughs at the thought of the inept cartoon mountie.

Still, he sees it as a serious dichotomy.

"We're like two sons, Canada and the United States, that left the British Empire, the mother. We stayed with the apron strings and our guys went off. And our character has not been dissimilar from those of the classic images from the boy who stayed home and the boy who went away and made a big success."

Sutherland also expresses near awe for the written word and writers.

"I love scripts that are written by good guys," he says, citing John Guare and Alvin Sargent. "Really delicate, elegant scripts that you wouldn't dare to change a word of. That your job is to struggle to find the real meaning of that word."

He allows that some scripts serve as just a framework, but says what you hope for are the ones that aren't just an amorphous foundation for a film.

"Those come from wonderful writers," he says. "I think that you have to really try as hard as you can to make the writer for whom you are working a wonderful writer. Because you, too, can bring him up a notch."



Donald Sutherland as Dr. Bethune

direction of the made-for-cable film, Last Light, which aired on showtime last summer.

When he was a boy, Sutherland originally wanted to be a sculptor.

"I lived inside my head. I'd been a sick kid, kind of one of your Robert Louis Stevenson on-the-counterpane kids. I had rheumatic fever, and pneumonia, and later spinal meningitis and polio, scarlet fever... I survived," he says, his voice trailing off as though he were getting lost in the memory.

But the life of a sculptor was one with which he couldn't deal because it's such a solitary pursuit. "I



Donald Sutherland in the film 'Bear Island' on the book of the same name by stair MacLean

Howard Jones is selling records — literally

By Steve James
Reuters

NEW YORK — British thesiser rocker Howard Jones has sold his fair share of records in the last decade, but now, freed from a major label, he's selling in himself.

Jones's latest CD, Work In The Backroom, was sold at shows during his North American tour

— a special souvenir of his latest work since the disc, autographed by the singer, is not available in stores.

Jones, a former Rolling Stone magazine Keyboard Player Of The Year, has maintained a loyal following in North America, although he has had only one number one hit — "no one is to blame". Last year, his Lift Me Up made the top ten.

"My contract had finished with Elektra (which just released The Best Of Howard Jones) and I thought all I ever knew is from being with a major label," the former spike-haired musician explains.

"My first reaction to leaving Elektra was kind of 'shock, horror', but then I saw it as the opportunity not to have to pander to anyone. It was a chance to

break away.

"As an artist I have an obligation to explore all things I am capable of... like just piano and song or jazz-pop or a record every six months."

So he went to work in the studio at his home in England, west of London.

"I tried some new material," he told Reuters before his show at New York's Academy Club.

"At the end I strung it all together and thought, 'I've got something here.' Why not put it on my own label and go on tour?"

"So I decided to sell it only at concerts and see what happens," Jones said.

The project gave him a chance to take control of every aspect of producing and marketing his music.

"I really enjoy this, it's like taking a step back and

seeing everything, from marketing and selling to the art work, and I did the master myself.

"Some country artists have done it in the past, selling their own records at gigs, but it's a big adventure."

So far, he said, he reckons that about half the audiences on his recent British tour bought the disc, a gem of lushly-produced and

melodic songs.

Considering he's playing small halls of about 1,500 people in the United States and Canada — "it's a small number, I know, but it's a special thing for the fans."

And at about \$10-12 a disc, he's not going to become rich.

"Music nowadays is so available that this makes it something special... like a limited edition print.

"It's also a gesture to the fans who have stuck with me for 10 years," he said.

"They have been frantic phone calls from people saying 'I can't get to the gig, how can I get the disc?'"

"There are other ways of selling it, like mail order... Frank Zappa did it, but it won't get in the charts or on video. At the moment we're not thinking of this," Jones said.

French fashion giant Cardin plans expansion in Vietnam

By Philippe Agret
Agence France Presse



Model wears a short dress with two light shaped decorations and matching top during the Pierre Cardin show in Hanoi (AFP photo)

HANOI — French fashion giant Pierre Cardin has announced a major expansion in his operations in Vietnam and said the country was "well-placed" to play a leading role in the world fashion market.

Cardin, here to show his couture collection in the Vietnamese capital recently for the first time since his group began operations in Vietnam three years ago, said the group had signed several licensing agreements for his range of luxury products.

The designer also planned to open a Maxim's restaurant in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, he said.

Vietnamese, who do not produce high fashion, may want to consider modelling it, Cardin told reporters in Hanoi he was planning to open Vietnam's first modelling school, after setting up schools in China and

Russia.

"I would love to open a school to train young people here because... you will become a nation of fashion," he said.

"You do not need to settle for international fashion standards. Please, keep your Ao Dai," Cardin said, referring to the long, side-slit traditional dress worn over silk trousers.

He said he had "big plans" for Vietnam's struggling market economy.

Vietnam was "well-placed because of its quality workmanship and reasonable price" to conquer the world fashion market, Cardin told reporters in Hanoi.

His fashion empire already has 190,000 people working in 840 factories spanning 120 countries.

Cardin presented his fashions for the first time in Hanoi to an audience including the nation's senior leaders. As is his custom when presenting his fashions abroad, Cardin himself selected 20 local

models to wear his creations on the catwalk.

The fashion show followed a gala.

Profits from the two evenings are to go to victims of recent floods which left more than 60 people dead last month in central Vietnam, and towards the construction of an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City.

Cardin returned to Vietnam last April for the first time since an initial visit in 1957.

"I wanted to come back here this year because I felt your country had suffered so much and that it had the right, especially young people, to have a vision for the future of the world like its Asian neighbours," he said.

During his press conference Cardin told young Vietnamese to "believe in your country." He added: "You have the right to happiness and to dream after having suffered so much."

Cardin is currently touring Asia as part of his role



Pierre Cardin chats with two show in Hanoi, Vietnam (AFP photo)

of honorary ambassador for UNESCO. He went to Shanghai, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila, Seoul and Bombay.

Fashion's wild boy Lacroix is southern gentleman at heart

By Lee Yanowitch
Reuters

PARIS — As the lights up on Christian Lacroix's first couture collection in July 1987, he made men of the cross and his breath.

It was the most intensely anticipated collection in several million years had been gambled on 36-year-old's success. Lacroix had even med of opening a couture house in the past 25 years, not since Yves Saint Laurent.

Despite the attention on that first show, no one imagined that Lacroix, out of the stuffy house of Dior, would become the most impossibly handsome and wildly colourful

clothes swept across the catwalk, inspired by the flamboyant costumes of his southern French origins and the bullfights he so fond of.

Orange, chartreuse and fuchsia plaids were paired with mad unmatching prints. The dresses, mostly spectacular evening wear, were made of luxurious satin, velvet and lace, sumptuously embroidered and trimmed with braid and tassels.

When it was over, the audience showered him with carnations and poured backstage to embrace him. The press hailed him as fashion's new hero, the man who brought audacity and bold invention back to the art of custom-made clothes.

"When I saw all those photographs and television pictures, I thought they were talking about someone

else," Lacroix said in an interview with Reuters.

"Maybe that's what allowed me to keep my head on my shoulders and my feet on the ground and not become a real star," he added, sliding off the five-metre couch and settling comfortably on the fiery orange carpet in his fuchsia-walled salon on the Rue Du Faubourg Saint-Honore.

Here, the Arab princesses who order Lacroix wedding gowns come for fittings — the Middle East accounts for 60 per cent of his sales — and women such as Baroness Marie-Helene de Rothschild and Faye Dunaway choose dresses costing upwards of \$10,000.

"I just try to rediscover the glamour that makes me nostalgic," he said. "And all of a sudden people were calling me an iconoclast and the 'enfant terrible'."

That glamour — the glamour of Christian Dior's voluptuous new look, before shameless femininity became politically incorrect — is what Lacroix has brought back into style.

"I used to go with my mother to the seamstress. It was like a harem, this atmosphere of women amongst themselves," Lacroix said.

In the 1970s, he went to Paris to study to become a museum curator. There, he met Francoise Rosenthal, a striking woman who became his companion and, in 1989, his wife.

They had a box at the opera but couldn't afford a new dress for Francoise. Instead, he sketched designs which she sewed with fabric from a shop on the Rue Du Bac, a haunt of Karl Lagerfeld's.

One day in 1978, Lacroix

sent a home-made birthday card to a friend. The friend was amazed. His drawing reproduced the styles paraded on the catwalks at the last ready-to-wear collections.

In that same week he showed his sketchbook to designers Karl Lagerfeld and Angelo Tarazzi and to YSL Chairman Pierre Berge.

"And they all seemed to think it wasn't too bad," he says.

He dropped out of school and within three months had found a job working in the studio of the fashion house Hermes.

"I never thought I'd become famous. My aim was to earn a living doing something that I found exciting every morning. Francoise and I were a very modern couple, but deep inside there was still this

Mediterranean machismo that made the fact that she worked and I didn't bother me," Lacroix says.

Three years later, despite his inexperience, the house of Patou hired him as a designer. Within a short time, he brought the staid house unprecedented international attention.

But by 1986, he was itching to move on. His chance came when Bernard Arnault, a dynamic young businessman whose conglomerate Financiere Agache already owned the Christian Dior and Celine fashion houses, fell in love with Lacroix's designs and offered to back him with eight million francs (\$1.3 million).

Inflated, Patou sued Lacroix and his backers for 10 million francs (\$1.8 million).

Now, the only designer

beside Yves Saint Laurent to win regular standing ovations, Lacroix is still very much the cheerful, unassuming southern gentleman.

He seems embarrassed by celebrity and is uneasy under public scrutiny. When he goes to a fashion show or a bullfight, he wears old jeans and asks to be placed in the back rows.

The most puzzling thing about Lacroix, is that despite his amazing critical success, the house has not had one year in the black. Its losses are now more than 200 million francs (\$34 million).

One problem is that his designs are so unusual that traditional marketing methods have not worked. And they are so wacky it is hard to put them together. The house has hired a new marketing director who is

putting new sales methods to the test.

For instance, at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, his designs are being sold by employees of the house.

"We give them a 'mode d'emploi', instructions on how to wear the outfits. Because when you take away the catwalk, the music, and you see the clothes on a hanger it's just not that clear."

As for ominous predictions of haute couture's imminent demise, Lacroix is already thinking of something different.

"We mustn't cut it off from reality, making it an endangered species or a museum object. Today's couture client no longer wears couture morning and night. My utopian idea is a fashion show including couture, ready-to-wear and something cheap."

Edinburgh becomes anti-AIDS laboratory

By Philippe Valat
Agence France Presse

EDINBURGH — Shocked to discover eight years ago that their city had the highest incidence of the HIV virus in Britain, authorities here launched an AIDS prevention campaign that has yielded stunning results among high-risk drug users.

quered immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Help has come, however, from the powerful but deeply conservative Association of Scottish Kiltmakers. The group agreed to back an effort to encourage Scotsmen — particularly those from Edinburgh — not to leave home without a condom.

clubs, schools and at the historic university here.

The poster campaign is part of a city-wide drive in which civic leaders, social workers, charitable organisations, doctors and pharmacists have joined forces in an anti-AIDS mobilisation unmatched in Europe.

Until 1985, the 700,000 residents of the Edinburgh area had blithely assumed they had been spared exposure to the human immunodeficiency (HIV) virus.

105 people suffering from Hepatitis B — hard drug users for the most part — were found to be HIV-positive.

"Overnight we found we had a problem of HIV on a scale we never expected," recalled Dr. George Bath, coordinator of the anti-AIDS campaign in Lothian County, where Edinburgh is located.

A more systematic examination of 1,800 known drug users was even more alarming: Nearly half were infected with HIV, transmitted by syringe.

The figures meant Edinburgh had an infection rate more than four times the national average, outstripping such high-density population centres as London and Liverpool.

Social workers and medical researchers to this day are trying to determine why Edinburgh should have been so afflicted when nearby Glasgow was not.

"The shock had its positive side because it led to a rapid mobilisation," according to Dr. Bath.

Fighting AIDS quickly became a compelling municipal priority and remains so. In 1992 the county allotted £8.6 million (\$13 million) to combat the disease, a figure topped only by

assistance to the elderly.

Two centres are open here seven days a week where drug users can acquire clean syringes and hand in dirty ones. A mini-bus meanwhile travels the length and breadth of the city, distributing clean needles.

With municipal financial backing, 20 pharmacies have agreed to supply three syringes free to all who request them — an anonymous transaction with no questions asked.

For the last four years the 530 general practitioners in the county have received a regular newsletter on AIDS research and treatment and have attended seminars and

stayed in touch through a telephone hotline.

The results have been impressive. According to Dr. Bath, transmission of the HIV virus by syringe is now insignificant.

Without the city's spirited intervention, he says, the number of HIV-positive drug users in Edinburgh would be two to three times what it is at present.

The campaign has therefore shifted focus, notably as the spread of the virus through sexual activity has risen steadily.

In response the city distributes condoms free of charge in 18 centres, including several high schools. Health educators visit schools and prisons.

Edinburgh's 900 prostitutes, 200 of whom men, have a permanent reception centre. With a telephone call they receive as many as 10 condoms in a single day.

The charitable organisation SAM and its 600 members concentrate on the community. The local council team regularly cautions its supporters to take

cautions. But Dr. Bath cautions: "We have no guarantee of success. We are not sure we are acting faster than the disease is spreading. Still, it's not a reason give up."

Female foeticide goes virtually unchecked in India

By Abhik Kumar Chanda
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — "May you be the mother of a hundred sons" is a traditional blessing bestowed upon a young married woman in India.

Women's groups and doctors blame the obsession with male offspring for the abortion of hundreds of thousands of female foetuses every year.

Female infanticide has been practiced for centuries in India where girls, commonly regarded as a burden to their parents, have been killed at birth by strangling, suffocation or poison amid chants of "go, send your brother."

The gender bias persists and science has made things simpler.

Today, more than 250,000 female foetuses are illegally aborted every year following occasionally risky sex determination tests guaranteeing "100 per cent success" to a growing clientele.

There is no comprehensive legislation to stop the practice except a 1988 law

in the western state of Maharashtra banning the use of ultrasound and other examinations for sex determination.

"We cannot expect the law to serve as a deterrent. Ministers, legislators and judges are consumers. The law lies in promoting awareness and making a woman conscious of her rights," said feminist activist Madhu Kishwar.

"Very often a woman has such a negative self-image that she does not want her daughter to go through the difficulties and misery she has," she added.

Dowry plays a large role in sex discrimination and female foeticide.

In Sirsa, a sleepy town of some 150,000 residents 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of New Delhi, billboards urge would-be parents to spend "500 rupees now (for sex tests) and avoid paying 5,000 rupees later (in dowry)."

More than half of Sirsa's 80 doctors conduct an average of 100 sex determination tests and 25 female

abortions a day, earning the town in Haryana state nationwide notoriety for medical abuse.

"Ask a person in Sirsa if a sex determination test has been done in the family and he will say yes," said local surgeon Rekha Bansal.

Several of her colleagues said the practice is justified.

"It makes sense for a woman to have an abortion if she already has two daughters and discovers that the third one she is carrying is also a girl," said Urmila Talwar, another Sirsa doctor.

Baldeep Singh, a physician from neighbouring Punjab state who confesses to having conducted 60,000 such tests, echoes Dr. Talwar saying it is the best method of "population control."

A random survey of a hospital in the southern city of Madras came up with startling results. Out of the 8,000 abortions carried out in a year, only one was of a male foetus.

Critics claim the country's declining sex ratio is a direct outcome of the selec-

tive abortions following sex determination tests introduced in India during the early 1980s.

None is entirely safe or foolproof.

"Amniocentesis, which is based on chromosome tests conducted on the amniotic fluid surrounding a foetus, is harmful because the fluid is aspirated with a needle. It can cause infection," said Delhi Gynaecologist Pushpa Chandra.

"Chorion biopsies and other sonography tests are not always accurate," she added. "Besides, pregnancies are terminated sometimes well after four months and this is both dangerous and illegal."

A proposed parliamentary amendment would make female foeticide and sex tests for gender determination punishable by law and provide for the black-listing of offenders.

Till such time, the abuse continues virtually unchecked across the country as would-be mothers succumb to family and social pressures to end "unwanted" pregnancies.

Researchers find gene that causes cell death

BOSTON (R) — Researchers said they had discovered the genetic material responsible for programmed cell death, a process by which individual cells commit suicide to help the body reshape developing tissues.

The findings, published in the latest issue of the journal Cell, are said to have implications for several diseases, including Alzheimer's, rheumatoid arthritis, strokes, traumatic brain injury and certain types of cancer.

However, any treatment that might result from the new research would be years away.

For example, if activated in the right cells at the right time, the so-called suicide genes can help mould an amorphous mitten of fetal tissue into a human hand with five fingers.

The genes are believed to control the number of cells by eliminating cells that are harmful, unwanted or have outlived their usefulness.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), led by Robert Horvitz, say they have identified the first suicide gene in the cells of a roundworm.

The gene, designated CED-3, is most abundant when a fertilised egg has

grown large and begun to reshape itself to resemble an adult organism. That is also when most of the programmed cell deaths occur.

A second research team, based at Massachusetts General Hospital, has apparently identified a similar suicide gene in rodents, discovering that CED-3 is very similar to a substance in humans and mice known as Interleukin-1Beta Converting Enzyme, or ICE.

The team, led by Junying Yan, also participated in the work at MIT. It found that when the genetic material responsible for creating ICE was hyperactive, programmed cell death seemed

to occur.

The scientists were able to stop the suicide gene from becoming active in turn, prevented one

doomed cells from dying. ICE helps create a chemical that is found in excessive amounts in Alzheimer's disease, head injury, sepsis, shock and rheumatoid arthritis, the researchers said, concluding that it may be a link between the diseases and programme cell death.

Finding genes responsible for programmed cell death is "a holy grail in this field," said Dr. Mark Fishman of Massachusetts General.

Smallpox debate resurfaces

By Teresa Riordan
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Scientists have revived the debate over whether to destroy laboratory stocks of the smallpox virus, responsible for a worldwide scourge that was finally eradicated in 1977.

The latest edition of the journal Science carried opposing views of two international teams of respected scientists on whether to eliminate the World Health Organisation's (WHO) stocks of smallpox, which over the centuries has killed more people than any other.

By the end of 1983 all official stocks of the virus were either destroyed or transferred to WHO laboratories in Moscow and Atlanta.

The U.S. Centres for Disease Control supervises a repository of about 450 smallpox virus samples from across the world. The Moscow archive holds 150 virus samples from Brazil, Botswana, the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Tanzania, and the former Soviet Union.

In favour of destroying the stocks was a team of scientists who say that the virus might be accidentally released, acquired by terrorists, or used in biological warfare. They wrote: "Destruction of the offi-

cial WHO stocks would send the clearest possible signal to all countries that any work with live smallpox virus will from now on be punishable by national and international authorities and that the mere possession of such virus is illegal."

They argued there was no scientific need to keep the stocks because at least two strains of smallpox have been genetically replicated, providing a smallpox archive for reference in case a similar virus ever takes hold.

But a second international team countered that researchers needed the stocks to study them as new techniques are discovered and as more is learned about all viruses.

"Retaining the smallpox virus stocks in Atlanta and Moscow and studying in detail how they are able to invade their hosts 'would be of enormous benefit to humanity,'" wrote the second team. It added: "We are only just beginning to understand how viruses cause disease at the biochemical and molecular level."

The group calling for eliminating the virus said the risk of infection outweighed any potential gain in knowledge by researchers wanting to keep the stocks.

"There are now millions of unvaccinated persons worldwide who might suffer terrible consequences if the

virulent virus were to escape from the laboratory," they wrote.

Those advocating keeping the virus dismissed worries about terrorism, saying smallpox was an unlikely biological weapon because it can be controlled through vaccination and other measures.

They argued that destroying the stocks would not eliminate the possibility of new smallpox infections partly because the monkey pox virus, whose main hosts are monkeys and squirrels and which now transmits poorly among humans, may potentially mutate into a new human smallpox strain.

Both the "for" and

"against" groups include scientists from across the world, including the United States, Europe and South America.

Briton Edward Jenner discovered a smallpox vaccination in the late 18th century, but it was not until after a worldwide health effort in the 1940s and 1970s that the disease was eradicated.

Although the WHO commended in 1986 that smallpox stocks be destroyed, the scientific community did not seriously debate the issue until this summer, at the 17th international congress of virology in Glasgow, Scotland.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

UP AND DOWN
By Craig Schmitt

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Clay is given life by artist's hands

By Ica Wabbah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contentment, derived from the warm glow of the sensible colours of mother earth, is the feeling one gets when watching Hazim Al Zu'bi's pottery.

The works, exhibited at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al Aydi), are a large array of stoneware objects, practical or decorative house-ware, made of hardened clay coloured with natural pigments.

The pre-Islamic, pre-biblical, Sumerian and Islamic calligraphy are already known to the viewer; the novelty of the Zu'bi show is the use of old Jordanian symbols in a stylised way.

They are human figures, naïvely represented on plates, pots or ashtrays. The colour is mainly turquoise, hot also light and charcoal grey, on a neutral, light grey.

The tableware is in various degrees of beige, brown, grey and taupe, decorated with abstract symbols or stylised figures in light brick, turquoise blue, greys or ochre browns.

Mr. Zu'bi's works are characterised by a great purity of lines, beautiful contrasts and attractive abstractions.

One mural, made of 28 individual squares, is exquisitely executed and an unfading eye-catcher.

Darker blocks form a natural frame to the lighter ones. The frame, dark taupe, is engraved with black verses from Gibran Khalil Gibran, in beautiful calligraphy, and the middle is made up of alternating hollow and solid, slightly ballooned, light taupe squares decorated with abstract patterns.

Stylised animals, flowers, human beings or abstract symbols and geometrical figures adorn vases that take different shapes: amphorae, spheric, oval or ending in a pointed, narrow cone reminding of the horn of a unicorn.

A more local theme is that of another mural, in beige ochre squares divided into triangles, with birds and animals we came to recognise from the by now familiar Jerash or Madaba mosaics.

One ingenious, small-size

mural is made up of six squares. The middle ones, looking like reed stems stuck together, seem to form an ancient parchment on which odd symbols (hieroglyphs like) seems to carry an ancient message from a flourishing civilisation.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated on Nov. 23 by Her Majesty Queen Noor and also has a collection of traditional handwoven rugs on display, runs until Nov. 30.



Two works by Hazim Al Zu'bi on display at Al Aydi (Photo by Florent Chevillon)

Mirage — between reality and imagination

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia Al Shanti Ammoura is exhibiting solo for the 13th time presently at the Al-Had Art Gallery-Mecca Street. Her exhibition is a collection of 30 acrylic and oil collage paintings categorised by the artist herself as being "abstract expressionism."

The overwhelming atmosphere of the exhibition is philosophical to a large extent. It is an atmosphere of pain, sorrow and pessimism. Sarah which means mirage in English, is not only the title of her exhibition but also the name of each and every painting she has on display.

Apparently, this exhibition reflects a state of mind which Ms. Ammoura lived recently with the new developments within the so-called new world order, where a modern concept of justice is being implemented by the "strong" according to their interests and to the convenience of their own whims.

In this new world, the feeble are becoming weaker, the oppressed more suppressed and the hungry more dependent on the rich. With this understanding at the back of her mind, she came to believe that "nothing in this world is real except death itself! Every other incidents are just passing by and disappear as if they never were, just as a mirage" she told the Jordan Times.

Brief moments of misery are enough to erase years of joy and dump them into oblivion, turn them into illusions. She sees the present with a crying eye, closed in search of hope through the imagination. She sees it as a ladder where the destiny and history of peoples are being drawn by outsiders, up and down.

Glorious victories of nations being erased, hungry mouths of children open, waiting for food while the world's riches are being manipulated by the strong.

With the Arabic letter she represents her lost country. "We encounter every day breaches of decency, abuses of human sensibilities. They are set upon us under different names and different justifications. We cope with them as best we can. Some triumphs, some defeats."

The colours reflect the frustration and depression inside

Ms. Ammoura: dark browns, blacks and gloomy greys. She, in many instances, shocks the viewer with a glaring red sun or a body fragmented into pieces by red bloody lines. Even when she uses bright colours, she projects a gloomy atmosphere.

The artist who is an aesthete as well, has studied at the hands of Aziz Ammoura, who happens to be also her husband. She has participated in many joint exhibitions in Jordan and abroad.

The exhibition will continue, till the Nov. 30.



A work by Alia Al Shanti Ammoura

Hamas military chief shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

mosque loudspeakers calling for a general strike Thursday in his memory.

Activists from the PLO's mainstream Fatah organisation were also enraged by the killing, and called for a three-day general strike in solidarity with Hamas, Israel Radio said.

Colonel Maher Al Fara, a senior Palestinian official in Gaza to oversee the setting up of a Palestinian police force, stayed home on Wednesday to mourn the death of a relative shot at a roadblock the night before, Israel radio reported.

Mohammad Al Fara died when soldiers opened fire on a car that ran a roadblock in Khan Yunis in the Gaza strip. The radio said the driver, who was wounded in the incident, ran the roadblock because his licence and insurance had expired.

Masked Palestinians stabbed Mohammad Hana to death in the Bureij refugee camp on Wednesday, witnesses told. Arab reporters, Hana, 32, was killed because he sold hashish. The death came despite a two month moratorium on the killing of collaborators called by the Hamas earlier this week. The word "collaborators" seemed to describe drug dealers and prostitutes as well as Palestinians who work for Israel.

Hamas, called on collaborators to repent during the moratorium.

In a separate incident near Gaza, soldiers shot dead Nidal Awad, 47, in his car at Beit Hanun when he did not stop at an army checkpoint. Arab sources said Israeli sources initially said he was killed at the Jabalya refugee camp.

Arafat: Gaza, Jericho will not be 'Bantustans'

(Continued from page 1)

and we hope expect an agreement to be reached very soon because we believe that peace must be comprehensive and throughout the middle east," Mr. Arafat said.

"The Palestine factor is the soul of peace in the Middle East but of course the other players are also important," Mr. Arafat said.

"Peace in The Middle East is not an Israeli or Palestinian demand. It is a universal demand," he added.

The Palestinian leader also met Wednesday with Greek President Constantine Caramanlis and with the head of the Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Seraphim.

The meeting with the church leader focused on the status of Jerusalem. Ioannis Hatziphotis, a spokesman for the church, said.

Mr. Arafat, who began his European tour on Nov. 21, is due in Norway Thursday and then will head to Sweden on Friday followed by stops in Finland and Denmark.

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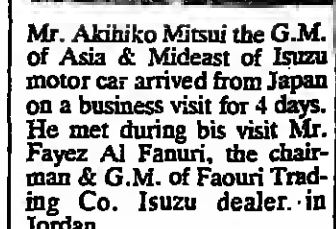
Banks in Jordan are awash with cash

At the end of last year, the grand total of foreign currency deposits was JD 1967.6 million.

Construction boom in Jordan continues

Jordan's current population is four million, compared with nearly three million in 1990.

Dr. Khalid Tawarah, vice de-
Yarmouk University has be-
professor of physical chemist



Tawarah
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promoted to the rank of

Dr. Khalid Tawarah, vice dean of the Faculty of Science at Yarmouk University has been promoted to the rank of professor of physical chemistry.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Clinton offers broader ties if N. Korea ends nuclear ambition

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton says the United States is ready for a broad new relationship with North Korea if the Communist nation renounces its nuclear weapons and allows outside inspections of its suspect nuclear programme.

"The door will be open," the president said Tuesday. Mr. Clinton said he was not eager to ask the United Nations for economic sanctions against North Korea in the event it continues stalling on nuclear inspections. The administration has said sanctions are a viable option.

Speaking after a White House meeting with South Korean President Kim Young Sam, Mr. Clinton denied that he was shifting the administration's approach to the Korean nuclear problem.

North Korea insists that its nuclear programme is designed to produce electric power not weapons, but it has balked at permitting outside inspections. Mr. Clinton said he and Mr. Kim agreed to "re-examine our security approach" to North Korea, but only if the North met two demands: Resume a dialogue with the South and permit nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"I don't consider that weakening our position or changing it or rewarding aggression," Mr. Clinton said in response to a reporter's question about his statement Monday that he planned to announce a new approach to the nuclear problem.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kim used the same phrase to describe their approach to settling the North Korean nuclear issue: "Thorough and broad" — an apparent reference to a willingness to offer incentives and rewards for North Korean behaviour.

One possible reward could be U.S. diplomatic recognition of Pyongyang. But Mr. Clinton was vague about what North Korea could expect if it met the U.S. conditions.

"In fact, what we want to do is to diminish the military tensions in the area, but that has to begin by the willingness on the part of North Korea to allow the inspections and to resume the dialogue," Mr. Clinton said.

A senior administration official had said shortly before Mr. Clinton's meeting with Mr. Kim that the United States was willing to drop the 1994 joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise called Team Spirit if the North met Mr. Clinton's demands. The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, had said Washington would reserve the right to revive Team Spirit later if talks faltered.

The official said the offer would be made directly to North Korean officials Wednesday in New York. Mr. Clinton made no mention of such a session.

Asked about dropping Team Spirit, Mr. Clinton denied there had been any decision. "That is something that would have to be decided by both of us at a later date, depending on what would be done or not done by North Korea. We've made no decision on that, and no commitment on that, and we couldn't now," Mr. Clinton said.

North Korea considers Team Spirit a provocative dress rehearsal for a U.S. military invasion.

An administration official who briefed reporters on condition he not be identified said the administration feels a sense of urgency in settling the nuclear issue because North Korea's compliance with inter-

national safeguards is eroding. "Time is not on our side," the official said. "This is a matter of increasing urgency."

As a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, North Korea is obligated to forswear development of nuclear weapons and to permit international inspections of its facilities. North Korea contends the inspections violate its sovereignty and are part of a contrived U.S.-led campaign.

Mr. Clinton made no explicit mention of a new round of direct high-level talks with the North Koreans. Two such sessions were held last summer, but a third scheduled for September was canceled by the United States after North Korea refused to allow international inspectors full access to its declared nuclear sites.

Mr. Clinton also said Washington and Seoul are "concerned by North Korea's concentration of forces near the demilitarised zone" that has separated the North and South at the 38th parallel since the end of the Korean War in July 1953.

Mr. Clinton did not elaborate on that point, but U.S. and South Korean officials have said before that they are troubled by the fact that about 70 per cent of North Korea's 1.1 million-man military force is near the zone. The bulk of South Korea's 650,000 armed forces also are near the border.

The United States has about 36,000 troops stationed in South Korea. Meanwhile the Pentagon said Tuesday the United States plans to send 317 air-to-air missiles to South Korea for \$169 million to help bolster Seoul's defence capability.

The announcement that Seoul had sought the additional arms for its warplanes, including 190 advanced AMRAAM missiles, came af-

ter President Clinton and Mr. Kim Young-Sam held talks in Washington.

In addition to the advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (AMRAAM), which can be fired at enemy warplanes from over 30 miles (45 km) away with deadly accuracy, the package would include 127 shorter range Maverick air-to-air missiles, the Pentagon said.

A senior South Korean military strategist dismissed as absurd a Newsweek story quoting classified U.S. reports that North Korea could win a ground war against the South and occupy Seoul in one or two weeks.

The U.S. weekly magazine quoted U.S. Defence Department intelligence reports as saying North Korea's array of forces and strategic doctrine — coupled with the failure of the joint U.S.-South Korea Command to respond — have created an opportunity for the North to launch a quick, massive strike across the demilitarised zone.

Newsweek quoted a Pentagon source as saying recent computer simulations showed "the South's defences collapsing so fast the hair stood up on the backs of our necks as we watched."

"Given the security measures between South Korea and the United States... the predictions in the report are not correct, they are absurd and unreasonable," Kim Su-Hyun, a lieutenant colonel in the Joint Chief of Staffs Military Strategy Department, said in a statement.

"Our own war games show positive results," Col. Kim said.

"Newsweek's report is groundless and its evidence insufficient," said the statement issued by the Defence Ministry.



The corpse of 11-year-old Srdjan Ratkovic lies in the quarters in Sarajevo by a mortar shell fired from Sarajevo mosque. Srdjan, a Serb, and two other children were killed playing near the U.N. head- photo

U.N. aid convoy rolls through Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — A U.N. winter aid convoy started for the Muslim stronghold of Zenica Wednesday to test the reopened main road for relief supplies through Croat territory to central Bosnia.

Two other U.N. aid convoys set out from Belgrade for the Muslim towns of Tuzla and Srebrenica, which are surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces. These convoys were among four turned back by Bosnian Serbs Tuesday, angering U.N. officials.

The Zenica convoy passes along the mountain road closed after the killing of a Danish driver during fighting between Muslims and Croats a month ago, leaving hundreds of thousands of victims of Bosnia's civil war without outside aid.

The convoy moved at crack of dawn from Croat-held Tomislavgrad after the Bosnian Croat commander, General Ante Rosso, gave assurances it would be allowed through.

The convoy must pass Gorzji Vakuf, where heavy Muslim-Croat fighting was reported overnight and U.N. sources feared the hungry population might storm the trucks.

The warring sides in the conflict agreed last week to guarantee safe passage to aid convoys, but they remained stalled until the U.N. were assured local commanders would obey orders by their superiors.

"I hope we make it to Tuzla this time, we were turned back three times (on Tuesday)," Silver Seldum of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told Reuters television.

Serbs say fighting and lack of fuel to clear snowbound roads prevented the convoys to Tuzla and other towns from getting through Tuesday.

A convoy reached the southern city of Mostar Tuesday to deliver the first U.N. aid to the town in a month. The U.N. had said the 55,000 civilians trapped in the Muslim eastern part of the town were in a desperate situation, "begging for food."

On the political front, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic urged the United Nations to suspend sanctions against Yugoslavia while peace in Bosnia was negotiated and to lift them completely when it was signed.

The sanctions were imposed on Yugoslavia for helping Bosnian Serbs take control of about 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic during the civil war that followed its secession in 1992.

Serbs account for 33 per cent of the population while Muslims make up 44 per cent, with Croats accounting for the rest. Karadzic told the Bosnian

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Serb News Agency (SRNA): "We must not rely only on hints to suspend sanctions. If the international community wishes talks to succeed, it must suspend sanctions now and allow the Serb side to be fully equal in the talks."

The European Community, which has agreed to ease the sanctions against Serbia if Muslims are given more land, called a meeting of the warring parties in Geneva Monday to relaunch the peace process.

The presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro are due to attend the meeting.

The peace process stalled in September when the mainly Muslim Bosnian parliament rejected a package dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states. They demanded more land from the Serbs.

Mr. Karadzic said that if sanctions were suspended before the talks, Bosnian Serbs were prepared to go further in meeting Muslim demands.

"We propose that Sarajevo be divided into two cities and that we forget talks about percentages, and see what both we and the Croats can do to ensure the Muslims a viable state, one which can survive," Mr. Karadzic said.

Croats hold about 10 per cent of Bosnian territory and the landlocked Muslims have demanded the Croats give them access to the sea.

India, Pakistan to resume talks

NEW DELHI (R) — Old enemies India and Pakistan said Wednesday they would start talks on unravelling deeply emotional differences, including divided Kashmir, on Jan. 1.

They said in a joint statement Foreign Secretaries Shashy Khan of Pakistan and India Mani Dixit, their top ranked diplomats, would meet in Islamabad for three days.

It will be their first substantial meeting since August 1992 and the first time there will be comprehensive talks on Indian-ruled Kashmir since a revolt against Delhi erupted there four years ago.

The road to the new talks was rocky, reflecting the nature of the relations between two countries which have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, since independence from Britain in 1947.

The wars left India holding two-thirds of the Himalayan region as Jammu and Kashmir, the predominantly Hindu nation's only Muslim-majority state.

Pakistan controls the rest.

Both claim it all and the festering issue has undermined all previous attempts at establishing normal ties.

This time, however, there were hopes of progress, although no one expects it to be rapid, analysts and diplomats said.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao offered the talks in a letter of congratulation to Benazir Bhutto last month when she won elections and became Pakistani prime minister for the second time, she accepted.

Then the Indian army laid siege to Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital and the centre of a revolt which police and hospital sources say has claimed more than 13,000 lives.

India justified the siege, which trapped about 80 armed militants and pilgrims, by saying it moved to thwart a Pakistani plot to steal what Kashmiris believe to be a hair of the Prophet Mohammad's beard housed in the shrine.

The last time it disappeared, in 1963, there was major violence in the Kashmir Valley that ended only when the sacred relic mysteriously reappeared.

Pakistan denied the Indian charges and countered with a propaganda accusing India of sacrilege. It refused to discuss setting a date for talks until the siege was over.

It ended peacefully last week after a month.

That was only the latest angry exchange between two countries which have rarely had better than had relations since British India was partitioned, creating the two nations in 1947. Up to one million people were killed in the division.

Apparent progress towards better relations in 1989, when Ms. Bhutto was prime minister and got along well with her Indian counterpart, the later assassinated Rajiv Gandhi, halted abruptly with the eruption of the Kashmir revolt.

India accused Pakistan of fomenting and fuelling it, charges Islamabad denies.

U.K. seizes huge arms shipment for N. Ireland

MIDDLESBROUGH, England (R) — British customs Wednesday announced a record arms seizure after officers intercepted shipment of weapons on its way from Poland to Protestant extremists in Northern Ireland.

The Protestant gangs, which oppose the nationalist Irish Republican Army, have stepped up their attacks since an IRA bomb tore through a fish shop in Belfast on Oct. 23, killing 10 people, including the bomber.

The shipment, seized at Teesport on England's North Sea coast, contained more than 300 assault rifles, pistols, two tonnes of explosives, detonators, grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

No arrests were announced. "It is the largest ever seizure of arms," a customs spokesman told Reuters. "It was from Poland and bound for East Belfast, the Protestant side."

The seizure reinforced police fears that Protestant gangs, which mainly use automatic weapons for their killings, are determined to manufacture bombs as lethal as the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

"It's a damn good job they

got it (the arms shipment) before it got to Northern Ireland," said William Ross, Ulster Unionist member of Britain's parliament for Londonderry East. Unionists want Northern Ireland to remain part of Britain.

Mr. Ross added: "It shows the government how accurate the Unionists' warnings have been that there is great instability in the community and people are turning to terrorist organisations, something which we deplore absolutely."

The arms cache was found early Wednesday among ceramic tiles and pots in a container aboard the Polish-registered MV Inowroclaw, a cargo ship which had sailed from the Polish port of Gdynia.

Firebrand Northern Irish Protestant politician Ian Paisley Wednesday accused the Irish government of working for the breakup of the British province.

"The stability of the whole country has been shaken to its very foundations by some of the proposals that Dublin is making," Mr. Paisley said on the eve of talks with British Prime Minister John Major on peace moves in conflict-weary Northern Ireland.

Mr. Paisley, who fervently

wants to maintain Northern Ireland's links with Britain, told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio: "We fear that the structures that will be brought into being will be structures that piecemeal will take us into an all-Ireland situation."

"They are setting up structures to destroy the union (of Britain and Northern Ireland)," he said.

Mr. Major's peace initiative to end one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts was dealt a body blow on Tuesday night when moderate unionist James Molyneux called it a dangerous approach that could aggravate the crisis.

In the province where more than 3,000 people have been killed in the Irish Republican Army fight to oust Britain, Mr. Molyneux said Mr. Major's close co-operation with Dublin had sown suspicion among the one-million-strong Protestant majority.

"London and Dublin must very carefully weigh both their words and actions if a crisis is to be avoided," Mr. Molyneux said, calling Ireland merely "a conduit" for talks with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing.

Man survives 300 metre plunge

ERIE, Colorado (AFP) — A man survived a 300-metre (950-foot) plunge from the top of a tower into a field after his parachute failed to open. Alf Humphries, 49, suffered severe spinal injuries when he hit the ground after attempting to parachute from a communications tower Sunday. It is not known why his chute failed. Humphries belongs to a daredevil parachuting group called BASE, an acronym for Buildings, Antennas, Spans and Earth — the group's favourite launch pads for their jumps. Friends said Humphries had parachuted for 20 years and had been in the 5,000-member base for three.

Nurse's aide knew of 1978 baby swap

TAMPA, Fla. (AFP) — A doctor gave the order to switch Kimberly Mays with another baby at a hospital nearly 15 years ago, a former nurse's aide claimed in an unusual twist to the controversial case. Patsy Webb, 60, said Tuesday she worked at Hards Memorial Hospital in Wauchula in December 1978 when Regina Twigg and Barbara Mays gave birth to baby girls within days of each other. Ms. Webb's account could not be independently verified. "She was asked by one of the treating physicians to switch the Twigg and Mays babies but she refused," Ms. Webb said in a statement issued by her attorneys in Bartow. "Upon arrival at work the next day she immediately saw the infants had been switched. She was informed that if she said anything about the babies being switched, she would be immediately terminated from her employment at the hospital." The statement said Ms. Webb kept quiet because her own child was sick with leukemia at the time and she wanted to keep her health insurance. Ms. Webb said she was speaking out now because her health is failing from an unidentified illness and she has a "desire to make the truth known." Attorneys for Ms. Webb provided no corroborating evidence, and refused to provide a motive or comment beyond the statement.

Clinton's daughter to perform in Christmas ballet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chelsea Clinton, the president's 13-year-old daughter, will perform next month in the Washington Ballet's production of the Christmas favourite, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's suite The Nutcracker. She is one of four students at the Washington School of Ballet who will share the role of favourite aunt in 18 performances at the Warner Theatre in Washington. The company will not say which of the 18th she will appear in, from Dec. 10 to Dec. 26. She performed in the ballet last Christmas in Arkansas, shortly after her father was elected, and has been taking ballet lessons for years. She started taking classes at the Washington School of Ballet in September. The school will not divulge what level class she is enrolled in. The Nutcracker runs at the Warner for 18 performances, from Dec. 10 through Dec. 26.

Impersonators fail test in a big way

NEW YORK (R) — While most students dream about having someone else take their SAT tests, federal authorities filed charges against two people who were paid \$5,000 to make those dreams a reality. The two, Jin Hyung Park and Wang Gi Jang, operated the Total Test Centre in Manhattan that allegedly had the sole purpose of providing impostors who could score well on college preparation and other similar exams. The two Korean nationals were arrested Saturday and charged with one federal count of conspiracy to defraud. Authorities said they arranged for impostors to take college tests including the scholastic assessment test (SAT), Graduate Record Exam and the test of English as a Foreign Language. All the exams are administered by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey, which had begun the investigation last February, David Johnston, head of security for the testing group, said that the English as a Foreign Language exam was the most popular among students using the bogus testing centre. He said they usually paid \$4,000 to \$5,000 to have the impersonator show up and take the exam. Although the payment could range up to \$40,000 for the Certified Public Accountant Exam.

Mandela: Right could destabilise S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela warned South Africa's black anti-apartheid movements Wednesday that the right wing posed a serious threat to stability and had to be isolated.

"There are formations in the extreme right, and here I include both white and black, who cannot face the test of the electorate," Mr. Mandela told a meeting of the Patriotic Front, a loose alliance of his African National Congress, the radical Pan Africanist Congress and smaller groups.

"They pose a serious threat... they have the capacity to create all sorts of destabilisation," Mr. Mandela told the meeting in the KwaNdebele black homeland northeast of Pretoria.

"We must find the correct political answers which will leave them as an isolated tiny minority," said Mr. Mandela, who held talks Tuesday with white right-wing leaders General Constand Viljoen and Ferdi Hartzenberg.

Mr. Viljoen, addressing a meeting of farmers in the conservative town of Potchefstroom in the western Transvaal, said he had told Mr. Mandela that the mood of Afrikaners was becoming explosive.

"Afrikaners want to live in peace with blacks but in terms of Afrikaner People's Front (APF) policy," Gen. Viljoen said, referring to the right-wing umbrella group which he heads.

He said he had told Mr. Mandela South Africa's post-apartheid constitution should keep Afrikaners and the ANC apart to avert conflict.

He repeated his prediction that joint ANC control of the security forces, due to take effect with the installation of a Transitional Executive Council next month, would create "great problems."

Gen. Viljoen, former chief of the South African Defence Force, has said many officers will refuse to take orders from the ANC.

Mr. Mandela, speaking in radio call-in programme Tuesday night, said his meeting with Mr. Hartzenberg and Gen. Viljoen had "broken the ice."

"We look forward to a period of intensive discussion," he said.

Meanwhile Jan Egeland, state secretary at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, discussed South Africa's post-apartheid democracy with ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu-based Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi Tuesday during a visit to South Africa.

"Tell Mandela that I'll meet him anytime," Mr. Buthelezi told Mr. Egeland, according to the daily Verdens Gang.

After separate talks with Mr. Mandela, Mr. Egeland was quoted as saying: "Mandela told me that he would like to go to the Zulu capital Ulundi for talks with the Inkatha leader."

South Africa's first all-race elections on April 27 are expected to put Nelson Mandela's black majority into parliament. But conservatives including Inkatha and white separatists have formed a Freedom Alliance to oppose the election.

Mr. Buthelezi has warned that Zulus, South Africa's biggest ethnic group, and their allies could unleash a civil war if the government and the ANC ignored their wishes for a

post-apartheid federation of self-government states.

"Our aim, to the extent that this is possible, is to influence Inkatha to resume the peace process," Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ingvald Havnen told Reuters.

The Security Council welcomed Tuesday the successful completion of agreements on an interim South African constitution and electoral bill and urged all parties to respect the accords.

"These agreements constitute a historic step forward in establishing a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa," a statement read at a brief Council meeting said.

The Council said it looked forward to elections scheduled for next April and urged "all parties in South Africa, including those which did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to recommit themselves to democratic principles, to take part in the elections and to resolve outstanding issues by peaceful means only."

This was directed at groups, such as the Freedom Alliance.

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Italian premier tries to rescue budget

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, his government in tatters after last weekend's Italian local elections, struggled Wednesday to salvage his all-important 1994 budget from the wreckage.

The former central banker was meeting party leaders across the political spectrum to make sure the bill won final parliamentary approval by the end of December, his office said.

Passage of the unpopular bill

is an unwavering priority for Mr. Ciampi who has said he will not recommend calling a general election until it becomes law.

Last Sunday's elections shot away what little credibility his scandal-tainted coalition partners retained and reduced them to a mere 15 per cent of the vote.

Fears that such a sweeping rejection might hinder passage of the budget helped unnerved financial markets Tuesday, sending the lira to a record low

of 1005.25 against the German mark.

The lira recovered to around 992 Wednesday morning while bonds and shares in Milan also firmed but dealers said the mood remained nervous.

Sentiment has not been helped by clear signs that Mr. Ciampi's main backers, the Christian Democrats (DC), are divided on whether to support the budget, which has been passed by the Senate but still needs approval by the Chamber of Deputies.

Russian campaign gives mixed broadcast diet

MOSCOW (R) — Russians Tuesday sat through a second dose of party political broadcasts in the country's election campaign, getting a diet of pop music, appeals to vote and statements averring life has already become much better.

Two years ago people had to rush to Moscow to buy basic goods, they suffered from rationing system, but this is no longer the case," said Yegor Gaidar, the reformist minister who spearheaded President Boris Yeltsin's market reforms in 1992.

Mr. Gaidar's bloc, called Russia's Choice, includes many key ministers and is determined to press ahead with reforms.

Under Russia's complicated rules dividing up the airtime, parties are allocated several 30-minute slots of prime-time television.

The first free party political television broadcasts for the 13 registered parties went on Monday evening and are due to continue up to the eve of polling day on Dec. 12.

Russia's Choice and other two reformist blocs have cut a deal to increase their exposure, dividing their broadcasting time into 20 minute chunks.

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Van Basten possibly out for rest of the season



Marco Van Basten

MILAN (AP) — A slow-healing ankle injury may keep Marco Van Basten, star striker of AC Milan and the Dutch national team, on the sidelines for the rest of the season, doctors say.

AC Milan Doctor Rodolfo Tavana told Italian television Tuesday evening that new examinations of Van Basten's twice-operated right ankle showed unsatisfactory results and the player will be idled for the next three months.

Previous reports had indicated that Van Basten could return to action in December. While strongly denying that Van Basten's career may be over, Dr. Tavana suggested the Dutch star is likely to be sidelined for the rest of the season, also missing the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The Netherlands is among the teams which qualified for the final round of next year's World Cup.

The Dutch striker, a three-time Best European Player of the Year, injured his right ankle in December 1992, played a few games in May and was sidelined again by recurring ankle pains which required a second surgery.

AC Milan, which is in the running for its third consecutive Italian League title and a fifth Champions Cup this season, had been hoping for Van Basten to return and boost both its offense and its chances.

Despite fielding such stars as Jean Pierre Papin, Brian Laudrup and Zvonimir Boban, Milan's offense has been less than impressive this season.

Considered one of the best world strikers ever, Van Basten is the only Dutch player left on AC Milan lineup following the departure of Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard.

Van Basten's contract with the Milan club, granting him about \$1.5 million a year, expires in 1996.

Dr. Tavana reported Van Basten's condition to the television network Italia Uno after the player was examined in a Belgian clinic at Antwerp.

The doctor's report was not the only bad news of the day for the Milan powerhouse.

Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic refused to travel with the Milan team to Belgium for a Champions League match against Anderlecht because he was not guaranteed a place in the starting 11.

Milan officials were expected to take disciplinary action against the unpredictable Montenegrin player, who has been on and off the team this season following mixed performances.

Platini denies plot against French manager

PARIS (AFP) — Michel Platini has denied involvement in a plot to depose national coach Gerard Houllier in the wake of France's failure to reach the World Cup finals.

The former French captain and coach, now in charge of preparations to host the World Cup finals in 1998, stuck by remarks though that Houllier should leave if his team were beaten.

Following Graham Taylor's resignation as England manager, over his failure to reach USA '94, Houllier will be next in the firing line among international managers after the qualifying campaign.

France's consecutive home defeats to Israel and last week to Bulgaria cost them their place at the finals. And Platini said in an interview in Tuesday's Le Monde, that "the repercussions of such a failure are enormous."

"A lot of things were said after the France-Bulgaria game. I thought there was no point adding by comments. But I have heard a lot of untruths, especially this story about a 'plot' I was said to have taken part in to harm Gerard Houllier."

After the Bulgaria defeat, Houllier hinted that he thought he was the victim of a campaign. But he did not name anyone.

Platini declared: "It never happened. People can say what they like. That is part of football. But there was never a plot."

France's greatest soccer player admitted that he had said before the game that Houllier, his assistant when national coach, should resign if France lost.

"I don't regret that. It is normal. I would have left had I been in his place," said Platini.

English struggle to fill 'worst job in country'

LONDON (R) — It used to be regarded as the best job in English sport by Wednesday it was a laughing stock.

Since Graham Taylor resigned as England's soccer manager Tuesday, the hunt for his replacement has become a national obsession to match anything which happened on the pitch in Taylor's reign.

Caretaker manager, two-tier appointments, father figures, dictators... the newspaper prophets have suggested the lot. The latest shortlist even contained Margaret Thatcher ("good against awkward foreign opposition"), Sean Connery ("proven success") and the Pope ("respect of the supporters").

The sad fact behind the public laughter, though, is that hardly anyone in the country is actually prepared to take the job. English soccer, once revered around the world, has become a rundown ship no-one wants to board.

Don Howe, suggested as an ideal "eminence grise" to see the national side through to the end of the season and give the Football Association (F.A.) some breathing space, became the latest Wednesday to decline to climb on deck.

"I did 10 years and that was enough," said Howe, 58, who coached England under the stewardship of Bobby Robson. "I've had my go. It's a good time to try other people out. They've got the likes of Terry Venables and Steve Coppell — they should be given the chance."

F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly, looking for a man to guide England in friendlies against Denmark and Germany next March and April, has stressed that a caretaker manager would not be a current club boss.

That gives Coppell and Venables, both currently "resting" from the managerial merry-go-round, an inside track — except that Coppell said he does not want the job and Venables' reputation is still clouded following his departure from Tottenham.

A permanent appointment, meanwhile, is unlikely until well into the new year, according to Sir Bert Millichip, the F.A. chairman.

"I shall be looking at the same situation as a few years ago, when Joe Mercer came in as temporary manager," said Millichip, referring to the departure of Sir Alf Ramsey following England's failure to qualify for the 1974 World Cup finals.

"I would like to think council members of the F.A. recognise this is the time we look at ourselves and say we need alterations." He even admitted revolution was "probably a good word."

Sweeping out the F.A. stables is clearly a pre-requisite before most candidates will slip into the tainted track, even for a rumoured £120,000 (\$179,000) a year.

Promising under-45s like Kevin Keegan, Gerry Francis, Coppell, Glenn Hoddle and Ray Wilkins are all reluctant to see their hard-won playing reputations undermined by power-climbing officialdom, a risk which surrounds the job like a government health warning.

The F.A.'s choice, therefore, seems to fall into two broad categories, assuming foreign-born choices are ruled out.

Either they go, as previously, for an experienced club manager like Howard Wilkinson of Leeds or Ron Atkinson of Aston Villa, or they look to a "master and pupil" relationship to bring some continuity to the set-up.

Some have proposed a "Robson and Robson" partnership of previous incumbent Bobby and ex-player Bryan but again there seem serious design flaws to the scheme.

The former will scarcely be keen to dip his toes back in the water after the roasting he received from the media first time round the latter is still committed to lacing his boots with Manchester United every weekend.

For the bookmakers, then, it

is a case of rounding up the usual suspects. Brian Clough, turned down years ago, is 50-1 to come out of retirement. George Graham is 16-1 despite the fact that he is a Scotsman. Even screaming Lord Sutch, the country's best-known eccentric, is quoted — at 100,000-1.

Taylor, meanwhile, is attracting considerably more sympathy out of the job than he did in it. He may reflect that, even in a nation of three million unemployed, his luck has already turned for the better.

Meanwhile the English Football Supporters' Association (FSA) has called on the F.A.'s 12-man international committee and F.A. director of coaching Charles Hughes to follow Taylor's lead in quitting.

Steve Beauchamp, FSA international officer, said after bearing of Taylor's resignation Tuesday: "All talk of continuity and restructuring is irrelevant while so many failed men remain complacently in their posts."

He said Peter Swales, as chairman, and the entire international committee responsible for Taylor's appointment must share the blame.

"Most of all Charles Hughes, the man responsible for the F.A.'s 1991 "bluesprint" — allegedly designed to place the national team at the pinnacle of football — should leave and leave now."

"In 29 years at the F.A., Hughes and his tactically sterile methods have taken England from world champions to also-rans," Beauchamp said. Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, was also critical of Hughes, saying he should shoulder some of the blame for England's failings.

"It is time for the professional game to be run by professionals, rather than amateur administrators and club chairmen whose interest inevitably is mainly with their clubs," he said.

U.S. Officials: Moroccan team will thrill America

By Eric Green
USA

WASHINGTON — A senior U.S. soccer official says Morocco's team in the 1994 World Cup of soccer will "capture the imagination of the American people."

Sunil Gulati, the senior vice president and chief international officer of the U.S. Soccer Federation who helped bring the World Cup to the United States for the first time, says he is very impressed by Morocco's style of play, which may enable it to spring a few upsets over higher-ranked opponents.

Gulati said he was also impressed by Morocco's "must-win" victory over Zambia, which enabled it to qualify for the World Cup.

Answering question on a U.S. Information Agency Teleconference with a group of 75 journalists in Casablanca, Gulati said that whether the United States or Morocco could win the World Cup is highly problematic.

"That certainly is the goal of every team," Gulati said. "But realistically the U.S. goals are a little more pragmatic... to get through the second round and have the U.S. population really get behind the team. To make it through to the (final eight teams) would be a great achievement." He said the same applies to Morocco, because like the United States, the Moroccans are relative newcomers to the game of soccer, as compared to traditional powers in Europe and South America.

Gulati said the United States, as host, looks upon the World Cup "as a treasure that we're borrowing from the rest of the world for 30 days next year."

The host role also automatically qualified the United States for the tournament. Germany also automatically qualified, as the defending champion.

From the North Africa-Near East region, Morocco and Saudi Arabia will join 22 other nations in soccer's world championship from next June 17 to July 17 in nine U.S. cities.

Gulati, who also is senior vice president and chief international officer of World Cup USA 1994, said a successful World Cup does not depend on the U.S. team doing well in the

tournament — although he agreed that it wouldn't hurt. He said a good showing by the U.S. team "will add to spectator enthusiasm and interest" from U.S. media.

Gulati admitted that soccer aficionados worldwide questioned why the United States, not known as a hotbed of soccer, was awarded the 1994 World Cup over other bidders for the event, including Morocco. Gulati said the United States has already answered a number of questions about whether it can stage a successful World Cup. He said that on the major question — whether anyone will go to the tournament — the simple answer is: Most tickets are already sold out.

On another question — logistics — he said the United States showed it could stage an international soccer tournament based on its successful running of the U.S. Cup '93 held earlier this year. That tournament, he said, certainly promotes confidence that "we can handle security matters, press accreditations, and so forth."

"The United States," he said, "has terrific hotels, great stadiums, and (good) transportation facilities. We have a number of attractions outside of soccer which will allow people to see some of the other treasures the United States has within its borders."

Gulati said questions concerning media coverage have also been answered, with two major U.S. television networks signing deal to cover the 52-game tournament. This year, Gulati pointed out, press and television coverage for U.S. Cup '93 was "phenomenal," with the U.S. team's victory over England making the front page of the New York Times.

Gulati acknowledged that according to public opinion polls, only 13 per cent of the American public is aware that the World Cup is to be played in the United States. The number, Gulati predicted, will dramatically increase in the next year.

"I could be a politician and say I never believe the polls — unless they show I'm ahead," Gulati said with a chuckle. "The buildup will start after the first of the year when we know where the 24 teams are playing. The United States will respond in a very big way to the World Cup," he said.

Compagnoni bids to exploit local knowledge

ROME (R) — Italy's Olympic gold medalist Deborah Compagnoni seeks to make home advantage count when the women's World Cup alpine ski season gets into full swing with three races this weekend.

The white circus comes to

Compagnoni's home village of Santa Caterina Valfurva in northern Italy with two giant slalom plus a slalom to be staged between Friday and Sunday.

The 23-year-old Italian has yet to recapture peak form

after a bitter-sweet 1992 Olympics when she won gold in the super-G only to rip knee ligaments 24 hours later.

She failed to complete the first leg when reigning overall World Cup champion Anita Wachter won the season-opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, four weeks ago.

"It's disappointing when you ski out but it's not happened since in training, even in the slalom," Compagnoni said by telephone from Santa Caterina.

Seemingly jinxed by injury, she had to skip a couple of days training last week after an overnight ski hoot caused an inflammation of the heel.

"The pain has not gone but it's a lot easier now," said the Italian, who remains optimistic about chalking up only the third World Cup win of her career.

"If I say a little prayer then

at least one of these three races should go well," said Compagnoni, seeking to better the second place she took behind Swiss veteran Vreni Schneider when Santa Caterina last hosted a giant slalom in 1991.

Schneider, who has posted a record 20 World Cup wins in the discipline, will want to mark her 29 birthday Friday with yet another success.

Now dogged by chronic back trouble, the Swiss notched up her first ever World Cup victory here back in 1984.

The Italian resort has stepped in to stage a giant slalom to replace a race postponed earlier this month because of a lack of snow in the Swiss resort of Veysonnaz.

The white stuff has also been in short supply on the Italian side of the Alps but the work of the snow-making machines means the races will go ahead.

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2nd German swimmer in 2 days fails dope test

BONN (R) — A second German swimmer in two days has failed a dope test and faces a possible two-year ban, the German Swimming Association (DSV) team manager said Tuesday.

But a report of possible exonerating for another swimmer banned for drug use, and protestations of innocence from the two latest alleged offenders, prompted calls for a review of testing techniques.

DSV team manager Ralf Beckmann said Steffen Gold, a member of the gold medal-winning breaststroke and backstroke relay teams at this month's European Sprint Championships in Gateshead, England, had been found to have excessive levels of the banned stimulant Caffeine.

"We only have the result of the A-test so far but it shows a reading slightly over the limit," he said.

He added he immediately had a lengthy talk with Smolich, who "assured me categorically that he had not taken any (banned) substances with a view to enhancing performance."

The news came just a day after an announcement that Sylvia Gerasch, who won an individual gold medal in Gateshead, had also tested positive for excessive levels of Caffeine.

Gerasch denied she had taken any banned drugs, but Beckmann said she had been taking medication for a cold.

He said Smolich had admitted taking Aspirin, not on the banned list, and drinking coffee. Coffee could push a swimmer over the caffeine limit, but only if drunk by the bucketful.

Both swimmers must now await the results of the second,

B-test for confirmation of the positive verdict.

But Beckmann said the cases raised the question of whether tests currently being used could produce false results.

His point was underlined by news that a laboratory in Utrecht in the Netherlands had found that incriminating bor-

none levels which led to the banning of former world champion Astrid Strauss last year could have come from alcohol.

Strauss always said a heavy beer-drinking session had made her own body produce unusually high levels of the hormone Testosterone — usually a pointer to steroid use.

GOING TO EXTREMES

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
J83
843
J152
AQ3

WEST
AQ7
102
K109764
872

EAST
74
AKQJ5
J10964
10964

SOUTH
AK10952
976
AQ
K55

The bidding:
East 1 - South West North
1 - 1 - Pass 2 -
3 - 4 - Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of
The defenders are at a tension-
down disadvantage in the play of the
hand. Unlike declarer, who has all of
his side's assets in sight, each de-
fender sees only his own hand and
the cards in dummy. That makes it
imperative that the defenders use
their wits to help one another
find the best defense. Consider this
deal from a team game.

All roads lead to Rome. Whether
South elects to overcall one spade or
make a least double of East's
one-bid opening, North-South

should land in four spades. Both
teams easily reached the spade
game, and at both tables West
attacked with the ten of hearts.

Both Easts won the first two tricks
and continued with a high heart to
the third trick.

Here, the play of the two defend-
ers in the West seats diverged dra-
matically. One West signalled
vigorously with the ten of diamonds,
East dutifully shifted to a diamond.

Declarer rose with the ace, drew
trumps and then took three rounds
of clubs, discarding the queen of
diamonds on the last. Making four
tricks.

At the other table West realized
that, while the king of diamonds was
possibly a trick, the queen of spades
was surely one as long as partner led
a fourth heart. So West made the
dramatic discard of the king of di-
amonds on the third heart!

East was not too startled to work
out that, had West wanted a di-
amond shift, a high diamond would
have been a sufficient signal. The
king of diamonds was such an un-
usual discard it could only mean
that partner did not want a shift to
either minor. So East continued
with a fourth heart and, whether
declarer elected to ruff high, low or
not at all, the queen of trumps was
promoted to the setting trick.

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The Fugitive
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD '2'
DRACULA
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA
Tel.: 699238
SKI SCHOOL
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Al Jim Nuron
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NEWS IN BRIEF

14 expellees refuse to go back home

MARJ AL ZOHOOR (AP) — Fourteen Palestinians expelled by Israel nearly a year ago said Wednesday they would not return home if that meant they would go back to Israeli jails. "I'm too weak to bear four more years in jail. I've already endured five before my deportation," said Jamal Amer, 35, of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Amer said he and 13 other deportees have hired a West Bank lawyer, Jawad Boulos, to try to obtain official guarantees they will not be forced to serve out the rest of their jail terms. "I will not return without such a guarantee," Mr. Amer added. The 14 are part of the 217 expellees who remain stranded in Marj Al Zohour. Israel has said they will be repatriated sometime next month.

Sudan arrests 3 Egyptians in Khartoum

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has arrested three Egyptians working in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, Cairo newspapers reported on Wednesday, risking an upset in the fragile detente between the two neighbours. Al-Ahram and Al-Akhar quoted a report by the Egyptian news agency MENA saying Sudanese police arrested the three on Tuesday while they were at work without giving a reason. The London-based Al Hayat said Egypt would lodge a complaint with the government there. All three were working for official Egyptian institutions. One was headmaster of the Egyptian embassy's school, another was director of the Egyptian social club in Khartoum and the third was an accountant at the Egyptian Trade Centre.

Iranian who taped TV shows arrested

TEHRAN (R) — Tehran police have arrested a man for taping and selling "decadent" satellite television programmes on video, Kayhan newspaper said Tuesday. Iranian police and vice squads seize thousands of video tapes deemed un-Islamic every year but this was the first reported case of videos reproduced from satellite television. Western-oriented Iranians who find state television boring increasingly turn to satellite dish receivers which are available on the black market to watch foreign films and music shows. Kayhan said the man was arrested in a posh area of north Tehran. He said he had bought his receiver for 1.8 million rials (\$1,000), about three times the price of a television set. A senior anti-vice official said in June that smuggling of the receivers was illegal, but there were no laws against manufacturing them in Iran or installing or using them.

Six executed in Sharjah for murder

ABU DHABI (AP) — Six convicted murderers were executed Wednesday in what officials said was part of an attempt to curb rising crime in this oil-rich federation of emirates. An Interior Ministry statement said four Indians and two Pakistanis were executed at the central prison in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The statement did not give the method of execution, in previous cases, executions were carried out by a firing squad. The statement said the six were involved in the killing of three people — two UAE nationals and a Pakistani — in three separate cases, going back as far as 1985. The four Indians were named as Suleiman Abdullah Kutty, Pillai Khamon Prasannan, Kamarath Mohan and Pureshtho John Kumar.

2 Chinese, 3 Israelis killed in 'crash'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A helicopter crashed and went up in flames Wednesday morning in southern Israel, killing the pilot and all four passengers on board, among them two visiting Chinese officials. The crash occurred around 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) north of the city of Beersheva, officials said. The private aircraft took off from Herzliya just north of Tel Aviv and was headed to Masada near the Dead Sea. Initial investigations indicated the aircraft struck either an electric pylon or wires, setting it on fire and it blew apart, aviation officials said. The precise cause of the accident was still being probed. The Chinese victims were identified as Wu Dingsheng, 58, mayor of Shenyang, a city in the northwest province of Liaoning, and a woman, Zhang Li, deputy chairperson of a Shenyang development committee and an associate professor in economics.

3 wounded in South Lebanon

MARIJYOUN (AFP) — Two civilians and an Israeli-backed militiaman were wounded in clashes Wednesday in South Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and police said. Snipers attacked an SLA position, wounding one. Police said the two civilians were hurt as Israeli artillery gunners retaliated. The militiaman was wounded at Nabi Taher on the Kfar Tibit passage point which links Israel's self-declared "security zone" with the rest of South Lebanon, the SLA said. The attack was followed by clashes between SLA forces at Nabi Taher and guerrillas of the Islamic Resistance, the armed wing of Hizbullah. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack and said two SLA militiamen were hurt.

Cyprus protests Pakistani visit to north

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus government protested on Wednesday about a visit by Pakistan's ambassador in Ankara to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state. Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides called in Pakistan's ambassador to Cyprus, Mohammad Qunbani, who had only presented his credentials on Tuesday, to ask for an explanation. "I protested over the visit, asked whether Pakistan calls it official and whether the timing was coincidental," Mr. Michaelides told reporters.

Iran, Indonesia aim for vast cooperation

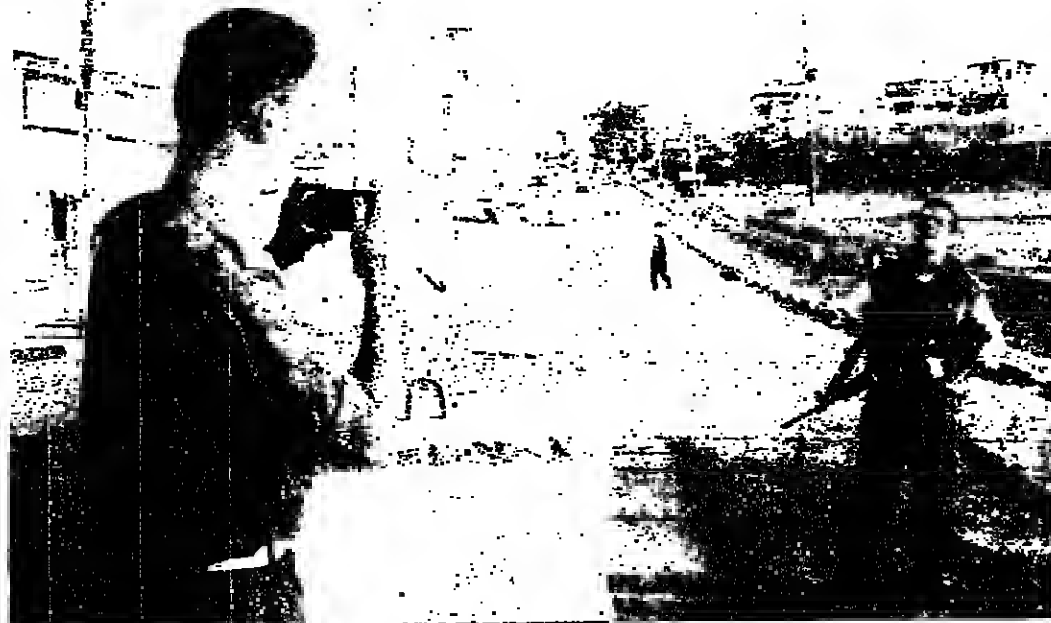
TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Indonesia set the stage here Wednesday for vast economic, political and oil-related cooperation, in a first meeting between presidents Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Suharto. Mr. Rafsanjani spoke of "immense potential" for economic cooperation with Indonesia, the president's office reported. Both leaders called for joint efforts in the oil, textile, aircraft and shipping industries. The two states could work closer to stabilise oil prices and protect the rights of oil-producing states, said the Iranian president. On the political front, Mr. Rafsanjani called for Islamic unity and more efforts to help Muslim states such as Bosnia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Somalia.

Two Lebanese held with forged dollars

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police detained two Lebanese men in connection with possession of forged \$100 bills and small amount of what is believed to be cocaine, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. Police arrested Hassan Ahmad Soleh, 24, and Ihsan Mohammad Soleh, 26, on Monday and confiscated 17 counterfeit \$100 bills and less than a gramme of white powder believed to be cocaine. "The powder is now under examination at a state lab. Soleh told us the stuff was for personal use only," police spokesman Savvas Antoniadis told Reuters.

ESCWA organises meeting on crises

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the American University of Beirut (AUB), in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany will hold an expert group meeting on "The operation of enterprises under severe and fast changing conditions" from Nov. 24 to 26, 1993 at the AUB, Beirut. Experts from Arab countries and others will deliberate on the theoretical framework on disaster and crisis like conditions, and on managing the impact of these conditions on individual institutions, firms and enterprises in the productive sector, to reduce damage and prepare for recovery.



An Israeli soldier takes a souvenir picture of his comrade in Gaza City Wednesday. Under the terms of the PLO-Israel autonomy accord,

Israeli forces are to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13 (AFP photo)

Israeli move out of Gaza, Jericho already underway

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has started redeploying troops and dismantling bases in the occupied territories ahead of deadline and while peace negotiators are still working out the details of the transfer of power to the Palestinians.

The movement of forces out of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho shows that Israel is anxious to get moving on a process that it sees as a test of whether the autonomy accord can work. It comes despite official claims that nothing would happen before a full Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

A Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday that he had observed redeployment of troops in Gaza and Jericho, but no reduction of forces.

In signing their accord in Sept. 13, Israel and the PLO set a Dec. 13 deadline for beginning the transfer of authority. But in recent weeks, both sides have said that date is not set in stone.

Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said Wednesday he was not aware of troop redeployment. "In principle, the redeployment of the Israeli forces will begin only once the negotiations are concluded, hopefully by Dec. 13," he said. Still, in preparation for the handover, senior PLO military figures visited Gaza this week to lay the groundwork for a Palestinian police force once Israel withdraws from most areas.

Fares Hassounah, one of the Palestinians in charge of set-

ting up the Gaza police force, refused to say Wednesday if there was already a timetable for troop withdrawal.

"We are waiting for the Israelis to vacate military bases in Gaza City and Rafah, because we are going to use these military bases for training the policemen," was all Mr. Hassounah would say.

Earlier this week, Israeli newspapers published a copy of an army order to some reserve units to report for duty Dec. 29 to help in the withdrawal.

A poll published by the Yedioth Ahronoth daily Wednesday showed that 80 per cent of eligible soldiers would participate in an evacuation of forces without hesitation. Six per cent said they would refuse on political grounds.

Israel Television broadcast scenes this week of the army moving tanks out of a base in the Jericho area. Newspapers have published photos of bulldozers clearing ground for the construction of a tall fence separating Gaza from Israel.

In Gaza City, a military encampment in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood was all but dismantled Wednesday: Only one sentry stood guard.

"We are waiting for a full pull out," said Mohammad Mahmoud Danaf, a fishmonger who lives next door. "I will slaughter a goat the moment they all leave."

The camp was built after uprising-related attacks intensified in the area in the late 1980s. The word would allow Mr. Danaf access to the first storey of his house as it abutted the camp.

Gaza city on Wednesday was hazy of the jeeps that once regularly patrolled its neighbourhoods.

Changes in Israeli policy have spread beyond Jericho and Gaza, pointing to possible long-term plans for withdrawal from other areas of the West Bank.

A military encampment in the middle of Deheisheh refugee camp that had secured the artery road to Jewish settlements south of Jerusalem was dismantled earlier this month after a sharp decrease in stone-throwing attacks.

There also appears to have been a reduction of forces in recent months in the West Bank town of Nablus, once a focal point of the uprising. Army checkpoints in the city have disappeared.

The Shavei Shomron artillery training base, 10 kilometres west of Nablus, was dismantled this summer after 22 years. In addition to serving as a training base, Shavei Shomron also secured Jewish settlements in the area.

There have also been changes in how the army deals with expressions of Palestinian nationalism. Palestinians could once be arrested for displaying their flag or pictures of PLO chief Yasser Arafat. Today, the flags fly on rooftops everywhere.

At a briefing session for reserve soldiers at Deheisheh three weeks ago, an army colonel told his troops that they were to treat these symbols nonchalantly: "You see the Palestinian flag, it's the Swiss flag. You see Yasser Arafat, it's president Clinton."

Peres is unhappy about Arab boycott

ATHENS (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres criticised Arab countries Wednesday for their decision to maintain an economic boycott against Israel, saying that the move showed they were not fully committed to peace.

"I am disappointed by an attitude which is not consistent with what they have pledged," said Mr. Peres at the end of his 36-hour official visit to Greece.

"We have, for our part, frozen settlements (in the occupied territories) and recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and they have not lifted their embargo."

"My impression, then, is that there is not enough reciprocity on their part."

Mr. Peres was referring to the Arab League's decision Monday to maintain its economic boycott against Israel until the latter withdraws from the occupied territories.

He said despite the move, Israel was committed to the peace process because there was "no other alternative."

The Israeli leader added that "it was out of the question" for him to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived here on Wednesday for a 24-hour official visit as part of a series of European visits following the PLO agreement with Israel in September.

Mr. Peres said despite unfinished talks with the PLO, Israel still hopes to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13 as planned.

"We hope to keep to the schedule. These are unprecedented talks, but we are making progress," Mr. Peres told Greece's ruling Socialists.

Nigerian council sworn in

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) took the oath of office Wednesday in a victory for new military ruler General Sani Abacha, who has rallied three outspoken pro-democracy activists to his cause.

The 11-member team appointed by the military Tuesday included three backers of the presumed winner of annulled June 12 presidential elections, Moshood Abiola, including his vice-presidential running mate Baha Gana Kingibe.

After the ceremony, career diplomat Kingibe said: "No Nigerian can afford to forget or wish away June 12," but he

declined to specify whether he had consulted Mr. Abiola before accepting his appointment as foreign minister.

The military has sought to play down the elections, held as part of its plan for restoring democracy but then annulled by the junta of General Ibrahim Babangida, who subsequently stepped down.

But Mr. Kingibe duhed June 12 the country's "most important democratic event" which marked an end to the "traditional divisions" of region, tribe and religion.

He said he trusted a military "commitment" to restore democracy "in the shortest possible time."

Faisal rejects fellow deputy's criticism, vows to continue campaign

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Toujan Faisal, Jordan's first elected woman in Parliament, Wednesday expressed shock at comments made by Islamist Deputy Abdul Minem Abu Zant about her and his offer of Islamic robes and sweets if she stops wearing makeup and starts wearing Islamic dress.

Ms. Faisal, reacting to Sheikh Abu Zant's comments made in a newspaper interview published Tuesday, said she did not expect such criticism to come out of a parliament member.

"I did not expect such statement. I expect at least a minimum respect and politeness from a deputy. I am not in need of his 10 robes, and I think I can afford my own clothing," Ms. Faisal said.

"The main problem is that (Islamist hardliners) don't know what their limits are in arguing and discussing certain issues," she told the Jordan Times.

who does not relate to me give an opinion or tell me what I need to do and how to dress," she said. "I did not give my opinion of how he looks or what he wears."

She accused Islamist hardliners of trying to interfere in people's lives and said that was not what Islam called for.

"They enter people's houses without permission and tell them how to live and how to deal with their family members," she said.

Ms. Faisal, a former television talk show hostess, said her priority in parliament was not clothing. There are "more important matters to discuss."

Apart from Sheikh Abu Zant's comments appearing in print on the same day His Majesty King Hussein opened parliament, Ms. Faisal said, her first day in Parliament went well and all deputies welcomed her presence in the legislature.

Ms. Faisal said that some deputies and politicians were asked the same questions that Sheikh Abu Zant was asked in the newspaper interview that

Iraq will not accept unconditional monitoring

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will not accept long-term U.N. monitoring of its military industry without Security Council guarantees that trade sanctions will be lifted first, a top Iraqi official said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh told Reuters that Iraq wanted to see Resolution 687, which allows free oil exports, fully implemented before consenting to long-term U.N. controls.

"We are in a state of negotiations. The way we give a concession, the other side is supposed to grant us something in return," Mr. Saleh said.

Mr. Saleh, also a member of the ruling Baath Party's regional command, said that when the Security Council permits Iraqi oil exports in line with provisions of Resolution 687 "there will be mutual trust between Iraq and the Security Council and then (we) will look into other issues."

"I believe, we have the right, and the world community gives us that right, not to abide by anything (else)," he added.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is in New York to lobby for an end to the three-year oil embargo.

So far he has run into a stone

wall with delegates bringing up recent Iraqi incursions along the Kuwaiti border as well as a newly-released U.N. human rights report accusing Baghdad of oppressing Shiite Muslims in its southern marshlands.

"They (the Security Council) do not want to carry out this resolution (687). Why then ask us to implement 715?" Mr. Saleh said.

U.N. Resolution 715 sets out terms and conditions for a strict control and monitoring of Baghdad's future weapons potential in line with sanctions imposed on Iraq as a result of its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

U.N. officials in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons want Mr. Aziz to acknowledge Resolution 715 in writing without conditions and see it applied for six months before recommending a lifting of the oil embargo clamped on Iraq because of the invasion.

Mr. Saleh, saying the resolution should not be linked to the oil embargo, said Iraq had given up its military industry and major weapons and had nothing more to offer.

In a major setback for Iraq's efforts to ease the sanctions against it, a U.N. report Tuesday criticised widespread human rights abuses under an Iraqi "regime of terror."

Khartoum challenges U.N. report on rights

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's government Wednesday challenged a U.N. report that it has carried out extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary arrests and kidnappings in order to depopulate land and fight rebels.

Acting Justice Minister Al Tahir Hamad Alla told the government daily as Sudan Al Hadeeth that the report was "not objective" and was submitted Monday to the U.N. General Assembly under intensive American pressure.

He said the special rapporteur for the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Gaspar Biro, had drawn up only a "provisional" document, which was to be presented to the Geneva-based commission next February.

This version, presented in New York, did not contain

ment had been due to make to the allegations contained in the report by Dec. 9, the minister said.

Mr. Biro said many violations were reported in the central Nuba mountains where the government appeared to tolerate efforts by local authorities to depopulate the area to fight the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"A significant component of this policy appears to be the forced relocation, sometimes the mass relocation, of the Nuba population," the report said.

He argued that the gravity of human rights violations in Sudan required continued, intensified surveillance, not only by the United Nations but by national and international non-governmental organisations concerned with human rights.

Shahal accuses Eitan of divulging nuclear secrets

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister on Wednesday said a former army chief had divulged state secrets by openly accusing the government of giving Egypt information on uranium deposits in the Sinai.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said Rafael Eitan's assertion that Mr. Shahal gave Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak data on the Sinai deposits, which Mr. Eitan said could be used to make nuclear weapons, caused Israel "irreparable damage."

He in fact disclosed the secret," Mr. Shahal told parliament, referring to Mr. Eitan.

"That in itself causes irreparable damage. The fact that this was disclosed... that there are strategic substances which he obtained from his position in the military, caused damage."

Mr. Eitan presided over Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai as army chief more than

a decade ago. He said uranium was discovered during Israel's occupation of the Sinai.

"When we were there we discovered very rich deposits, and if these are now disclosed to the Egyptians... they can make military use of it... they can sell it to Iraq, to Iran, Syria, Libya, or use it themselves," Mr. Eitan told Israel Television.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel. Under the 1979 treaty, Israel agreed to return the Sinai, which it seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

Energy Ministry Director-General Ron Kroil confirmed turning over a geological survey in a goodwill gesture but said Mr. Eitan's charges were "completely unfounded."

The survey given (to) President Mubarak is not classified. It has been published before, and makes no mention of uranium."

COLUMB

Clintons put their mark on White House

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and his wife have put their mark on the White House with a completed restoration project that includes a new kitchen, family meals, the White House said Tuesday. The improvements totalled \$396,429, were financed entirely by private donations, the White House said. The Clintons chose not to use some \$30 appropriated by Congress for restoration, it said. The rebuilding was done by Hickory Smith, a Little Rock, Arkansas, designer and contractor. The cost of work was raised in a written by Vincent Foster, putty White House legal counsel, shortly before he committed suicide. Foster expressed concern that the cost of work, which was higher than initially estimated, could lead to embarrassment of the president and first lady. Foster's family quarters and rooms used for meetings, office functions and entertain were refurbished.

Turner Prize won by 'worst' artist in U.K.

LONDON (AFP) — Actress Rachel Whiteread won a double win for her concept of a house — the £20,000 (\$30,000) Turner Prize as £40,000 (\$60,000) rival as for the worst body of work produced in the past year, ceremony at the Tate Gallery in London. Whiteread, 34, makes huge sculptures of plaster casts of baths, walls and floors, scooped controversial Turner Prize from three other shortlisted contenders. The 30-year-old London-born artist also picked up the "worst award" from K Foundation, an offshoot of the pop group KLF, who financed its prize through records. A spokesman for the foundation, which asked a public to fill in ballot for printed in national newspaper advertisements, said: "She's a fairly convincing winner. Rachel attracted attention three years ago with the exhibition at a gallery in East London of a sculpture, ghost white plaster cast of a room. She took casts of four walls of a deserted room in a house in North London and assembled them to form room turned inside out. It has been described as 'strange luminous monument'. Her work in the Turner Prize exhibition — 'Unk' (room) 1993 — was a full development of that idea."

Qiu Ju wins China's top film prize

BEIJING (AFP) — Zhang Yimou has won his first in China, marking the occasion of the international acclaimed director's morphosis from banned filmmaker to official mascot Chinese cinema. Zhang's Story Of Qiu Ju received the Golden Rooster Prize — ceremony in the southern of Guangzhou Tuesday. His 1990 Raise The Red Lantern won Best Film at the Hundred Flowers ceremony here said. Gong picked up prizes for best actress in both the Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers ceremonies — judged respectively by an expert panel and ordinary audience — for performance in Qiu Ju, only relevant major award escaped Zhang's team was title of best director went to Xia Gang for A Separation.

Hooked drug police cry foul

WELLINGTON (R) — A mer undercover New Zealand police officers have legal proceedings against police doctors whom they allege allowed them to become addicts, officials Wednesday said. "The doctors allowed us to take... control drugs in the total absence of any sound medical evidence was safe. We want an acknowledgement of the damage we want to see it stop. Peter Williamson told us. Mr. Williamson is a former detective, Dunedin, in New Zealand. South Island, who alleged doctors were ethically medically negligent by letting them to smoke and while working under



Toujan Faisal

they claim are Islamist ideas, and accuse women so they can have the power to divorce them from their husbands without allowing them to be able to defend themselves. That is exactly what they tried to do to me," Ms. Faisal said. "This is a shame," she said. "True Islamic morals say one should not interfere in other people's business, or what goes on inside other's houses."